



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

3

INIO ASANO

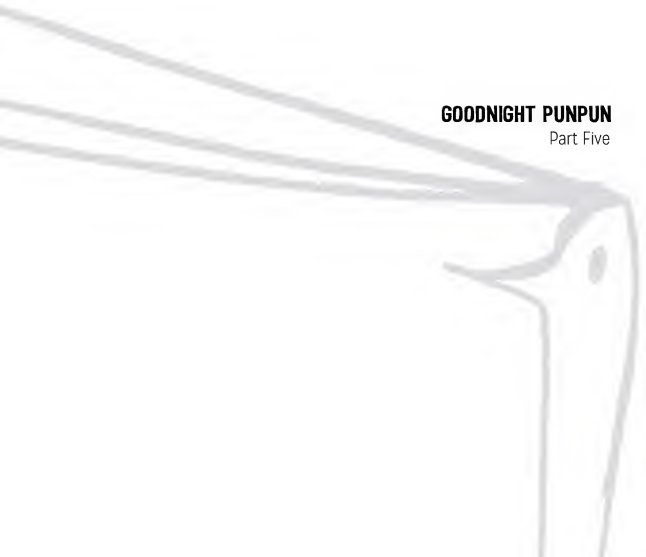
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

3

Story and Art by INIO ASANO





GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Five

CONTENTS

STORY THUS FAR...

Punpun Onodera has all sorts of feelings he doesn't want to deal with due to his interactions with Aiko Tanaka (the love of his life). So he decides to give his heart a little bit of distance from it all.

Two years later. Now a third-year middle school student, Punpun goes to see the results of his high school entrance exams.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



PUNPUN ONODERA

A young, choco pie-loving high school freshman. His favorite cliché move is *Gassho Hineri*.



MAMA ONODERA

Punpun's mother. When she was younger, she tried to be a spokesmodel for a cosmetics brand but didn't make it past the application stage.



YUICHI ONODERA

Mama's younger brother. Teacher at a pottery school. Currently missing.



AIKO TANAKA

The girl Punpun loved in elementary school. They have no particular relationship at the moment.



MIDORI OKUMA

Yuichi's girlfriend. Runs a coffee shop. Practically lives with Punpun.



MASUMI SEKI

Punpun's classmate. He has no plans for further education after middle school.



SHIMIZU

Punpun's classmate. He and Seki have been friends since kindergarten.



YUGAMI

The lawyer who handled Mama's divorce. A friend of Yuichi's.



TOSHIKI

A fairy who lives in town.

Chapter 47

5

Chapter 48

19

Chapter 49

39

Chapter 50

74

Chapter 51

95

Chapter 52

115

Chapter 53

135

Chapter 54

155

Chapter 55

175

Chapter 56

195



Chapter 47





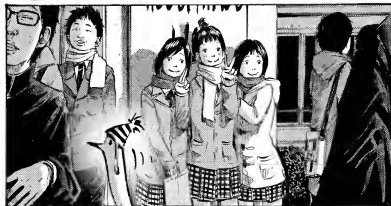


High
School
#1

ACCEPTANCE
LISTS



Punpun
wasn't
particularly
excited.



Punpun
knew...

...his
achievement
was just the
inevitable
outcome of
relentlessly
studying.

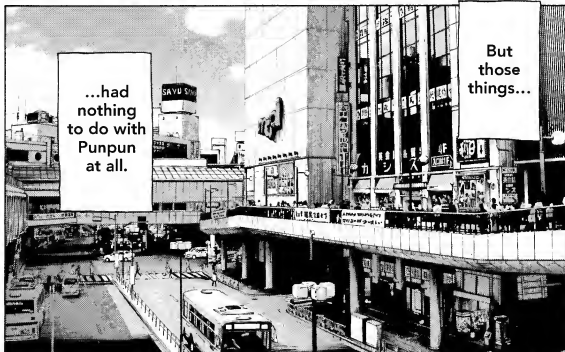
...were nothing
but equations
and English
grammar, written
in his notebook
or on the
blackboard.

His
memories
of the
last two
years...

And Kuramoto, who had hurt a teacher when he pushed him, had been arrested for arson.

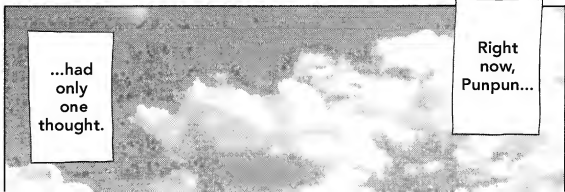
...Shimonoseki, one of the top three cutest girls in his year, had been absent for a month. Rumor had it that her loser boyfriend had gotten her pregnant and she'd had an abortion.

The only other things he really remembered were that...



...had nothing to do with Punpun at all.

But those things...



...had only one thought.

Right now, Punpun...



"I want
to have
sex."



Actually,
was going
to be
deliberately
vulgar
with that
announcement.

"I
want to
fuck."



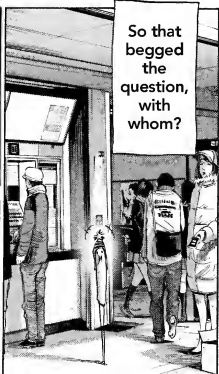
I said
I want
to fuck!

...and
frankly,
Punpun
was a little
sick of it.

Because of
the springlike
weather, the
whole town
seemed to
be in a good
mood...

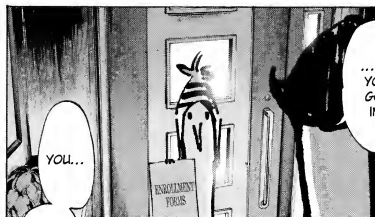
So that
begged
the
question,
with
whom?

Essentially
and
consistently,
Punpun...



...felt
like
he was
hollow
inside.





YOU...

...SO
YOU
GOT
IN.

HMMM
...



...
REALLY
ARE
SMART.



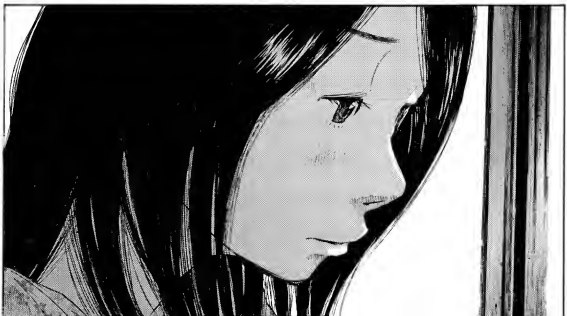
HYAH
HA!

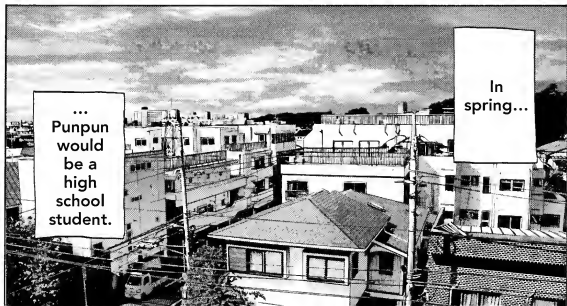
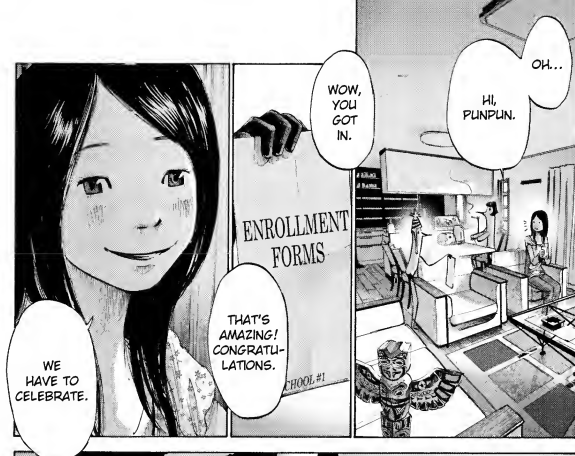
WELL
THEN...

...
CONGRATU-
LATIONS!

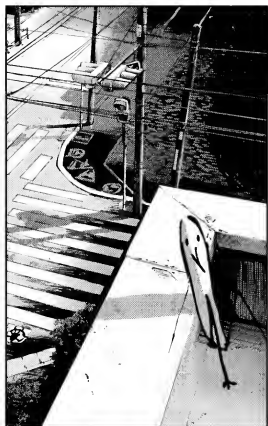
DO YOU
WANT TO
GO DEVOUR
SOME NOT-
REVOLTING
SUSHI?





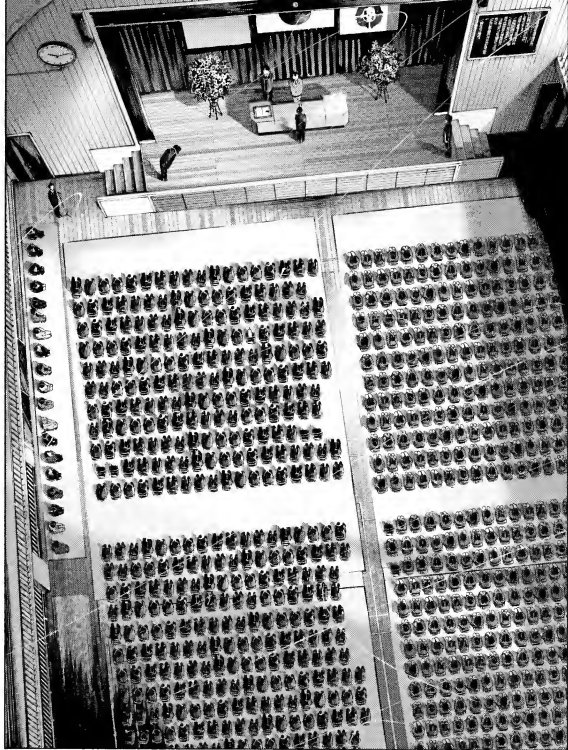










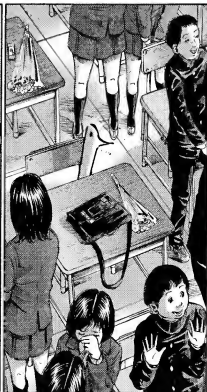


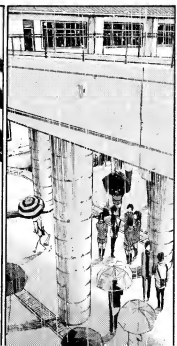
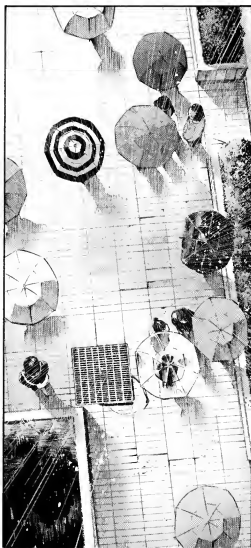


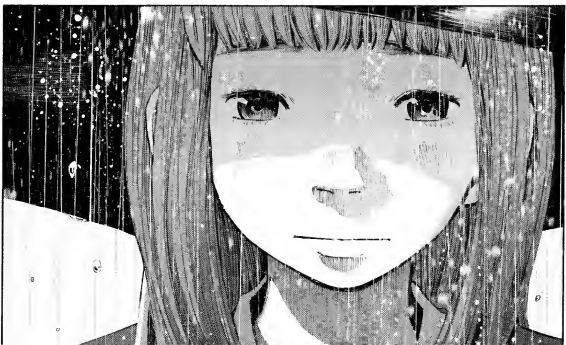
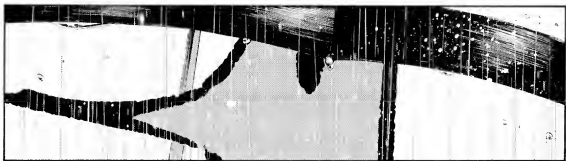
Punpun
didn't feel
particularly
moved.

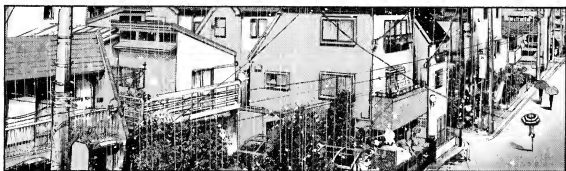
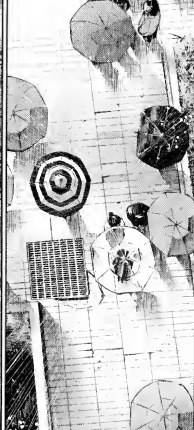
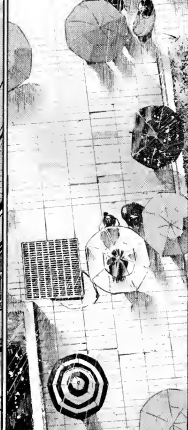


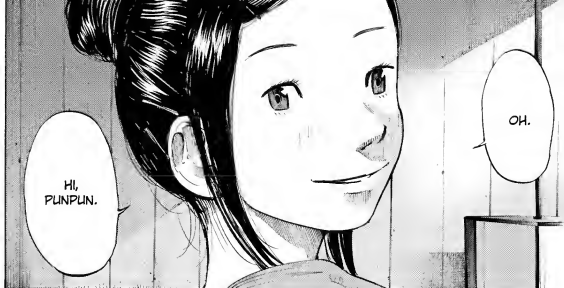
He
had no
regrets.





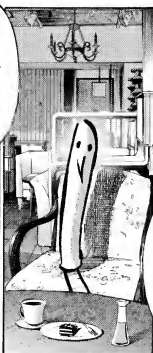


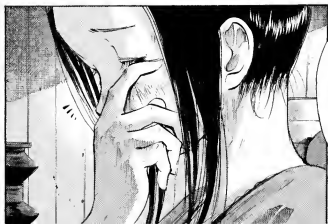


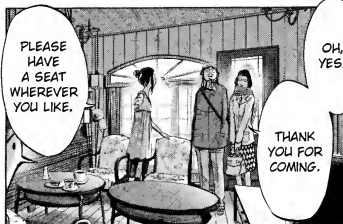




YOU'RE MOVING NEXT WEEK...







PLEASE
HAVE
A SEAT
WHEREVER
YOU LIKE.

OH,
YES!

THANK
YOU FOR
COMING.



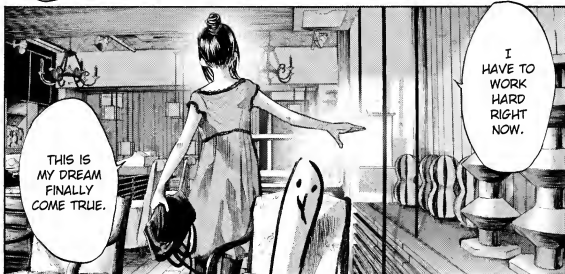
UHM...

WE READ
ABOUT
THIS PLACE
IN A
MAGAZINE
...



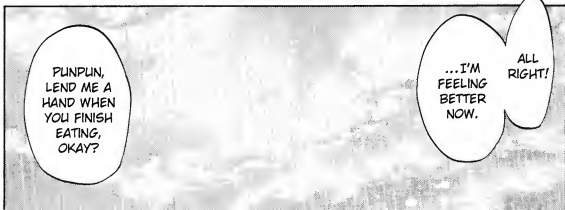
NO
POINT...

...FEELING
DOWN.



THIS IS
MY DREAM
FINALLY
COME TRUE.

I
HAVE TO
WORK
HARD
RIGHT
NOW.

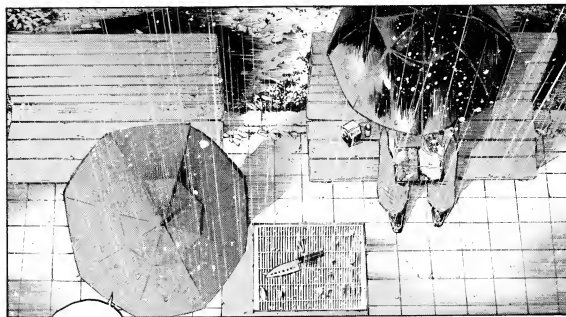


PUNPUN,
LEND ME A
HAND WHEN
YOU FINISH
EATING,
OKAY?

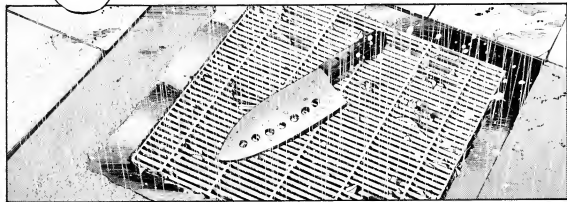
...I'M
FEELING
BETTER
NOW.

ALL
RIGHT!



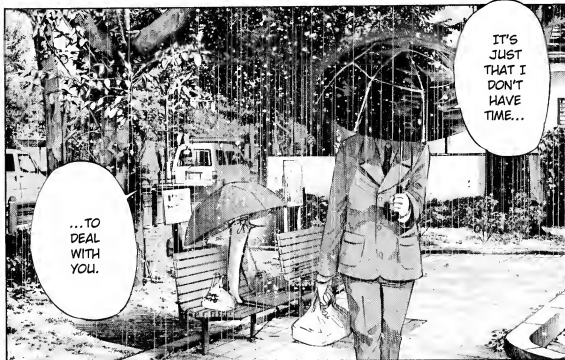


YUGAMI.





I
DON'T
RESENT
YOU.



...TO
DEAL
WITH
YOU.

IT'S
JUST
THAT I
DON'T
HAVE
TIME...



UNLESS
IT'S FOR
BUSINESS,
OF
COURSE.



I'VE
GOT A
MOUNTAIN
OF
IMPORTANT
WORK TO
GET TO.

I
HAVE
TO
LEAVE
NOW.



OH,
THE RAIN
STOPPED!

LOOK,
PUNPUN
...

LOOK HOW
GORGEOUS
THE STARS
ARE.

...was
how bad
his eye-
sight had
gotten
in the
last two
years.

...the
only thing
Punpun
was
thinking
about...

Frankly...

'CAUSE
AS LONG
AS I'M
LOOKING
AT
THEM...

BUT
EVEN
NOW, I
LOVE
LOOKING
AT THE
STARS.

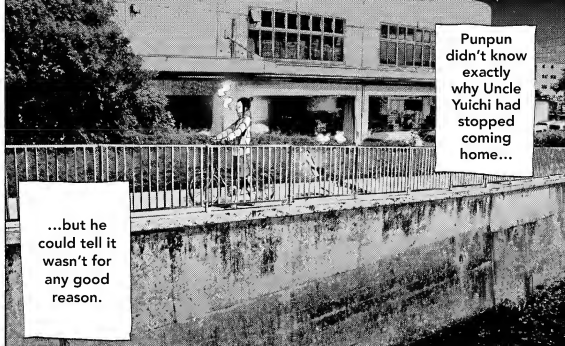
WHAT
A GEEK,
RIGHT?

YOU
KNOW,
WHEN I
WAS IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL, I
WAS IN THE
ASTRONOMY
CLUB.

But
his heart
chafed with
irritation that
he couldn't
find the
words to
comfort
Midori.

...
REALITY
JUST
FADES
AWAY.





Punpun
didn't know
exactly
why Uncle
Yuichi had
stopped
coming
home...

...but he
could tell it
wasn't for
any good
reason.

That was
all he
could
manage
to say for
now.

"I'm sure
Uncle
Yuichi will
be home
soon."

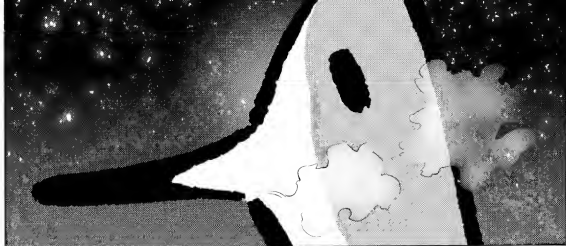


YEAH
...

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

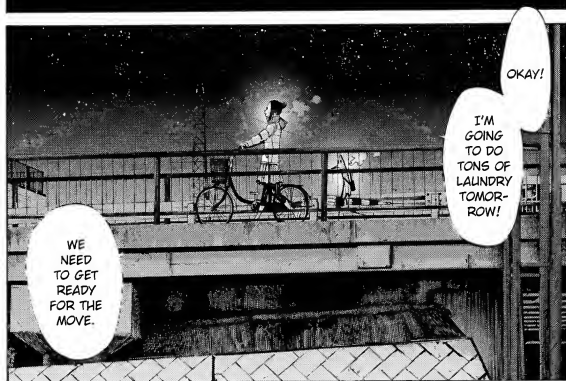
THANK
YOU.





"...and
pretending
not to know
was mature..."

"If pretending
to know
everything
was childish..."



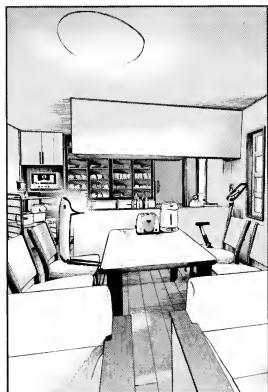
WE
NEED
TO GET
READY
FOR THE
MOVE.

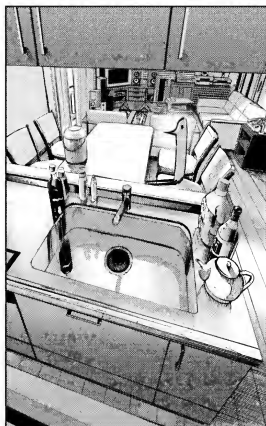
OKAY!

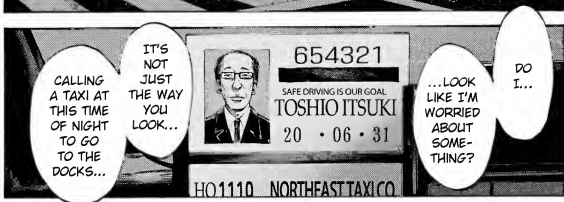
I'M
GOING
TO DO
TONS OF
LAUNDRY
TOMOR-
ROW!

...thought
Punpun.

"...then I
must still be
a child..."









YES,
I DID.

...SO
YOU'VE
GONE
AND
DONE
IT.

OH...



W-W-
WAIT...

WHOA,
WHOA.

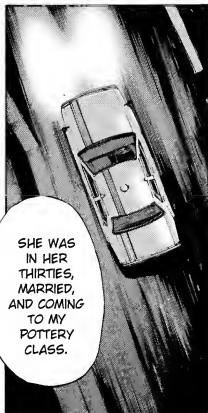
OH...
...



I
LOST
AGAIN.

OH,
DARN.







HE'S
SAYING HE
SUFFERED
EMOTIONAL
DISTRESS...

HER
HUSBAND
FOUND OUT
ABOUT IT,
AND NOW
THEY'RE
GETTING A
DIVORCE.

...AND HE'S
DEMANDING
\$200,000 IN
DAMAGES.



I WAS IN A
COMMITTED
RELATIONSHIP,
AND I WAS
CONVINCED I'D
NEVER STRAY.

...BUT I
OVERESTI-
MATED THE
STRENGTH
OF MY
MORAL
FIBER.

IT'S
NOT AN
EXCUSE
...

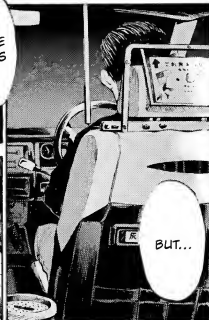


...A
FREAK
IN THE
SHEETS,
WASN'T
SHE?

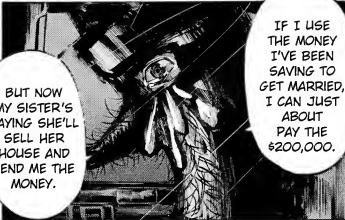
SHE
WAS
...



**SHE
WAS
SCARY
FREAKY!**



BUT...



BUT NOW
MY SISTER'S
SAYING SHE'LL
SELL HER
HOUSE AND
LEND ME THE
MONEY.

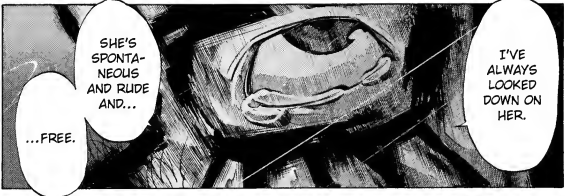
IF I USE
THE MONEY
I'VE BEEN
SAVING TO
GET MARRIED,
I CAN JUST
ABOUT
PAY THE
\$200,000.

WELL...

...NOT
MUCH
YOU
CAN DO,
THEN.



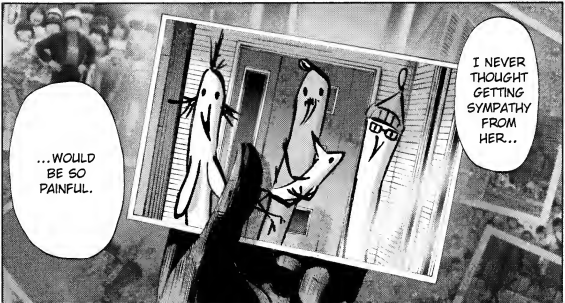
WHAT
A NICE
SISTER.



SHE'S
SPONTA-
NEOUS
AND RUDE
AND...

...FREE.

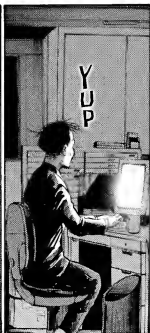
I'VE
ALWAYS
LOOKED
DOWN ON
HER.

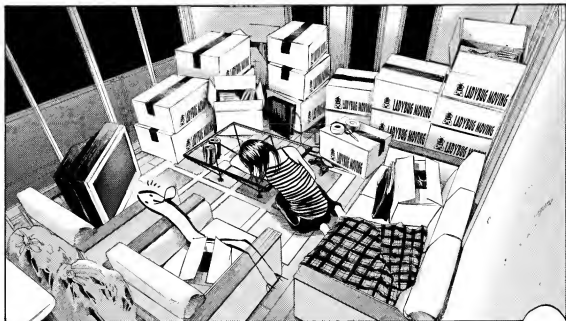


... WOULD
BE SO
PAINFUL.

I NEVER
THOUGHT
GETTING
SYMPATHY
FROM
HER...









WILL YOU
STAY LIKE
THIS WITH
ME FOR A
WHILE?

SORRY,
PUNPUN
...



IT'S
FUNNY
...

I
PROMISED
MY GIRL-
FRIEND ONE
THING WHEN
WE STARTED
GOING OUT.



"...JUST
KILL
ME."

"IF
I EVER
REALLY
HURT
YOU..."



SHE
...

SHE
FORGAVE
ME.

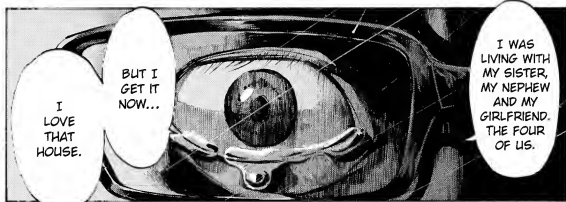
BUT...

...SHE
DIDN'T
KILL ME.



THAT
WAS THE
HARDEST
PART OF
ALL.

THAT...



I
LOVE
THAT
HOUSE.

BUT I
GET IT
NOW...

I WAS
LIVING WITH
MY SISTER,
MY NEPHEW
AND MY
GIRLFRIEND.
THE FOUR
OF US.



...BECAUSE
PEOPLE
ARE TOO
KIND.

I HATE
MYSELF...



...SO
I'VE DONE
THINGS A
HUNDRED
TIMES
WORSE
THAN
YOU.

I USED
TO BE A
TROUBLE-
MAKER
MYSELF...

NO.
NO,
SIR...



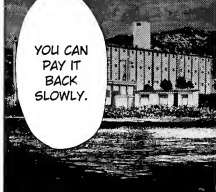
...DEAD IN
A DITCH A
LONG TIME
AGO.

IF
I HADN'T
MARRIED MY
MISSUS, I
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN...

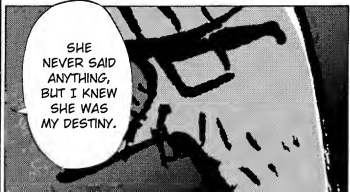


YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
REPAY
KINDNESS
IMMEDI-
ATELY.

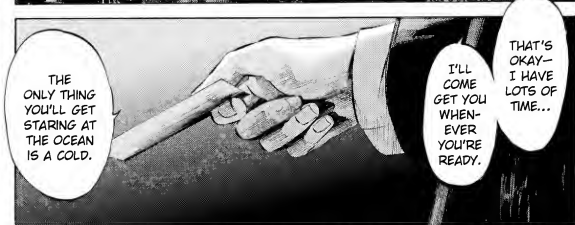
OF
COURSE,
I GAVE
HER
LOADS
OF
TROUBLE
TOO.



YOU CAN
PAY IT
BACK
SLOWLY.



SHE
NEVER SAID
ANYTHING,
BUT I KNEW
SHE WAS
MY DESTINY.





OF
COURSE
YOU
WILL.

THERE'S
SOMEONE
WAITING
FOR YOU.

EVENTU-
ALLY
YOU'LL
GO HOME.



13
IT'S TO
UNDER-
STAND
THE PAIN
OF BEING
FORGIVEN.

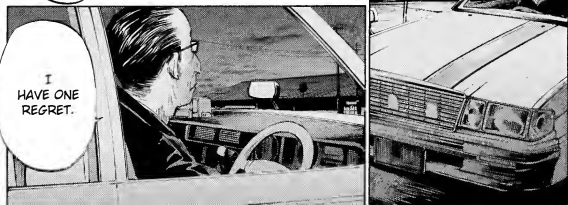
...BUT I
THINK WHAT
A SINNER
REALLY
NEEDS ISN'T
PUNISH-
MENT.

I'M
NOT A
PHILOSO-
PHER...



...PASSED
AWAY LAST
MONTH.

MY
MISSUS...



I
HAVE ONE
REGRET.



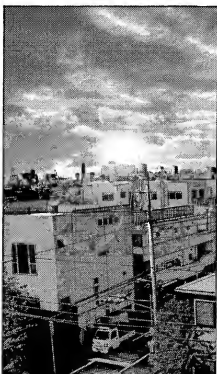


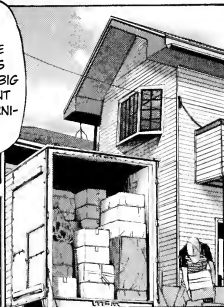


...and
the night
blurred
into a
translucent
dawn.

...Uncle
Yuichi
didn't
come
home...

In the
end...





Punpun was remembering everything that had happened in the house, from the first day they'd moved in until today.



NO WAY.

SO CORNY!



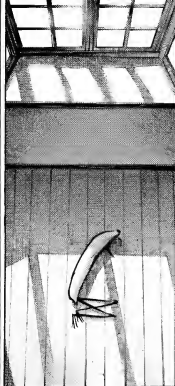
WE'VE FINISHED LOADING ALL YOUR THINGS, SO CAN WE GET A CONFIRMATION SIGNATURE, PLEASE?

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM!



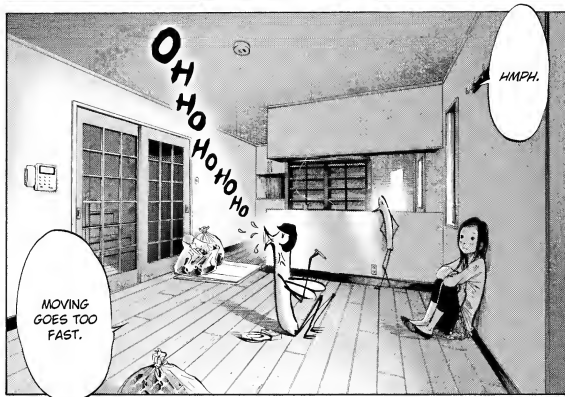
That New Year's Eve when Uncle Yuichi got chicken pox and made a huge fuss...

...and when Midori watched a drama rerun and couldn't stop crying and they all laughed at her.



Like when he watched the night game with his dad...

...and the morning his mom banged around with a toothache and broke a window.



MOVING GOES TOO FAST.

...
thought
Punpun.

"Days
go by
without us
knowing
why..."

...and
ages
ago.

...like it had
happened
yesterday...

It all
seemed...



WILL
YOU AND
PUNPLIN
STAY BEHIND
AND TAKE
CARE OF THE
TRASH AND
ALL THAT?

...I'LL
HEAD
OVER TO
THE NEW
PLACE
WITH THE
MOVERS.

OKAY
...



JUST
ONE!

I'M
SORRY
...

LET'S
JUST
TAKE ONE
PHOTO
OF US
TOGETHER.



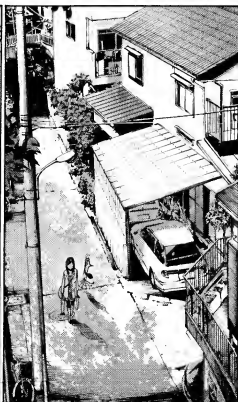
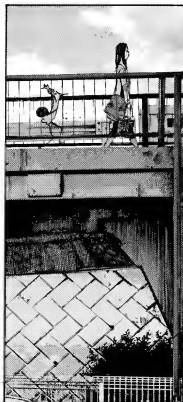
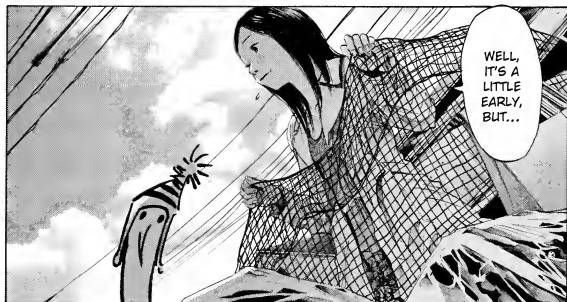
WHAT?

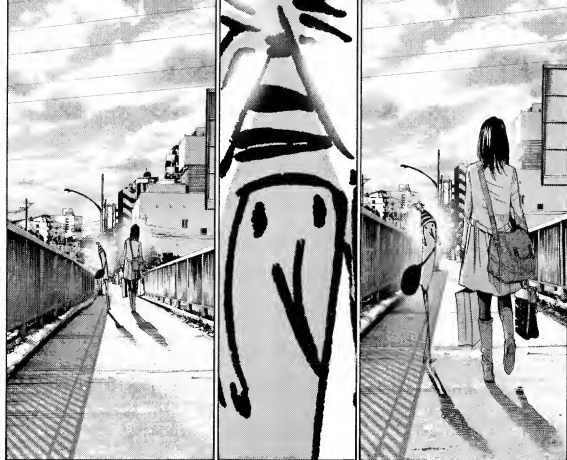
LIIM,
SIS...



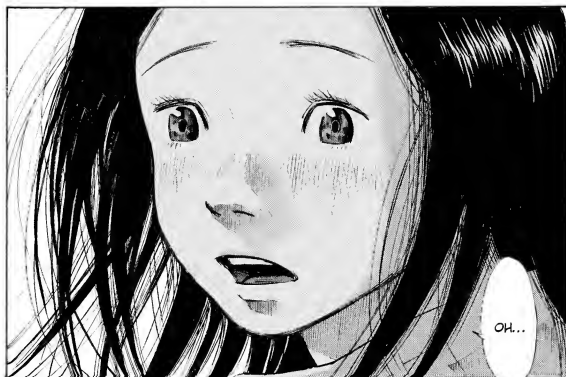
IS IT
OKAY
...

...IF I
CALL YOU
SOME-
TIMES?

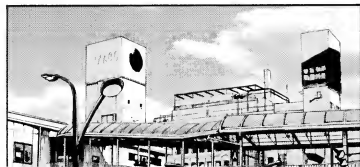


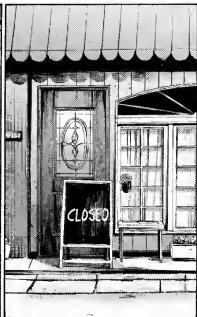


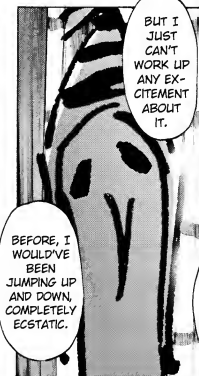












BUT I
JUST
CAN'T
WORK UP
ANY EX-
CITEMENT
ABOUT
IT.

BEFORE, I
WOULD'VE
BEEN
JUMPING
UP AND
DOWN,
COMPLETELY
ECSTATIC.



THEY'RE
EDITORS
OF A
MAGAZINE
...

THEY'RE
GOING
TO DO A
WRITE-UP
OF THE
CAFÉ.

OH YEAH,
REMEMBER
WHEN YOU
WERE HERE
EATING
CAKE...

...AND
THOSE TWO
CUSTOMERS
CAME IN?

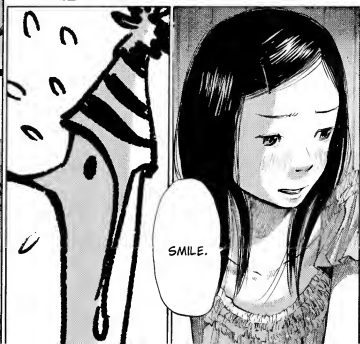


I
SAID,
SMILE!



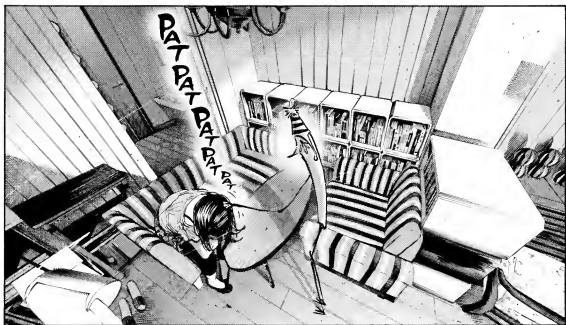
YOU
HAVE A
BAD HABIT
OF BEING
SUSCEPTIBLE
TO OTHER
PEOPLE'S
EMOTIONS.

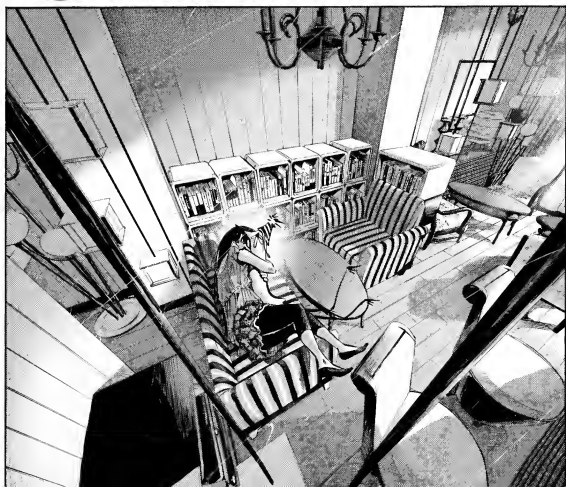
OH,
PUNPUN,
DON'T
LOOK SO
GLUM.

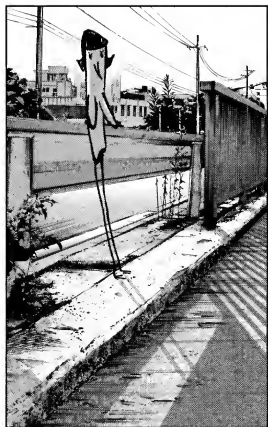


SMILE.





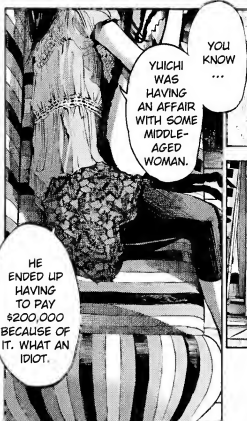






Chapter 50



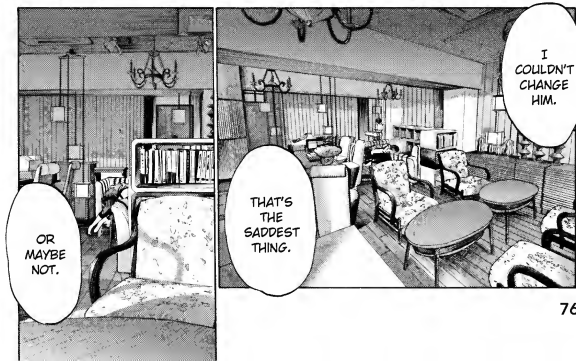


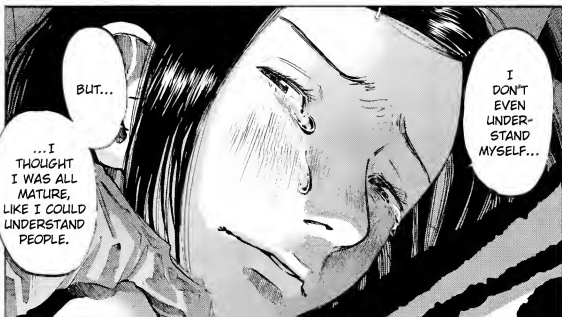
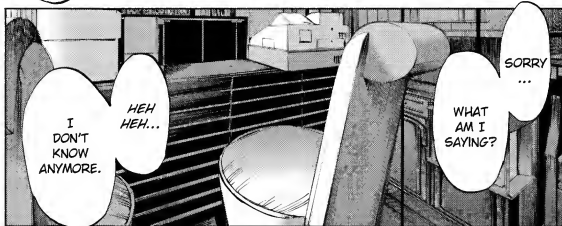
YOU
KNOW
...

HE
ENDED UP
HAVING
TO PAY
\$200,000
BECAUSE OF
IT. WHAT AN
IDIOT.

CLOSED





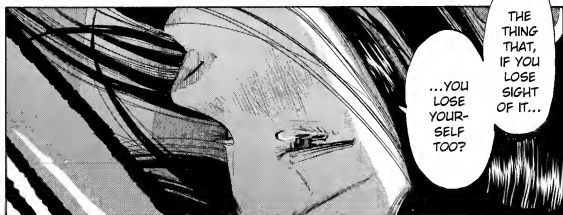




WHAT'S
THE ONE
THING YOU
BELIEVE
IN?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
IS MOST
IMPOR-
TANT?

PUNPUN
...



...YOU
LOSE
YOUR-
SELF
TOO?

THE
THING
THAT,
IF YOU
LOSE
SIGHT
OF IT...



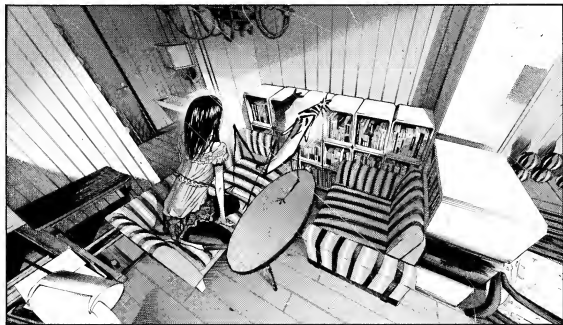
...THE
FOUR
OF US
LIVING
TOGETHER.

I
REALLY
LOVED...

FOR ME,
ACHIEVING
MY DREAM
WAS JUST
A CHECK-
POINT.

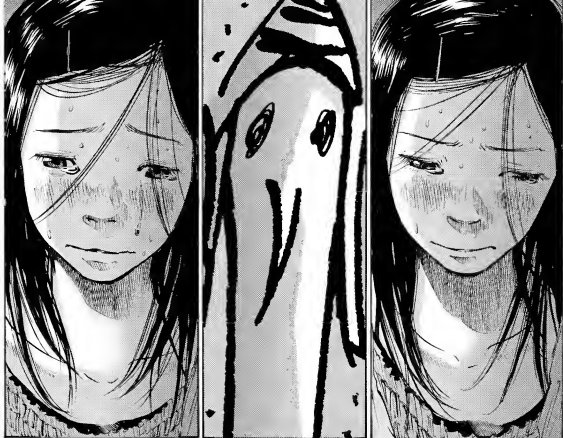
I
FINALLY
GET IT
NOW...





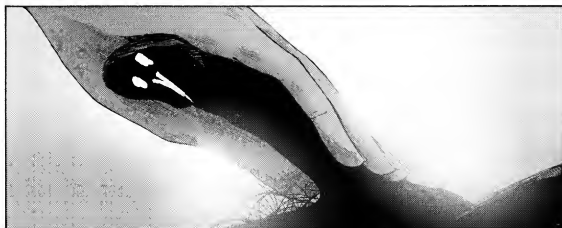
NO?

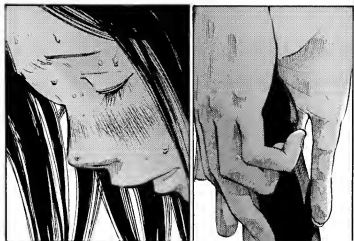
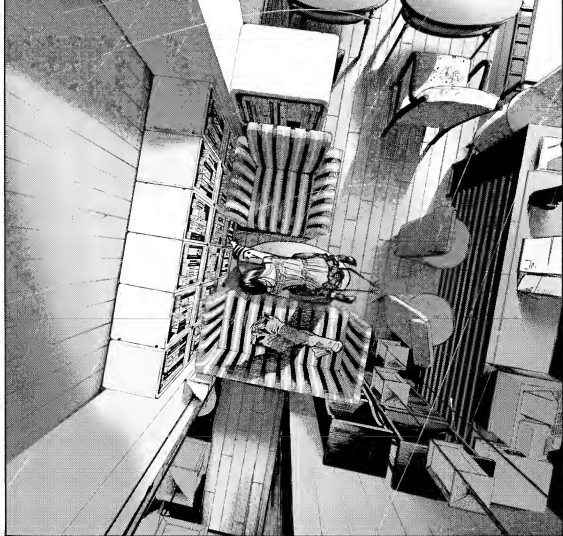


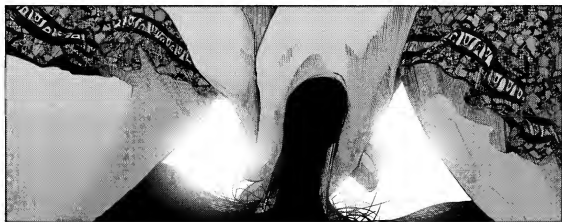


DON'T
MOVE...

JUST
A
LITTLE
BIT...

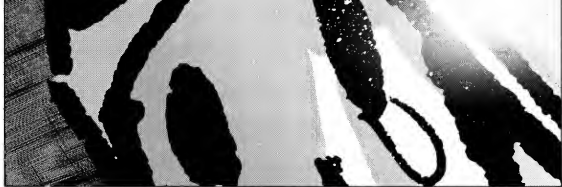


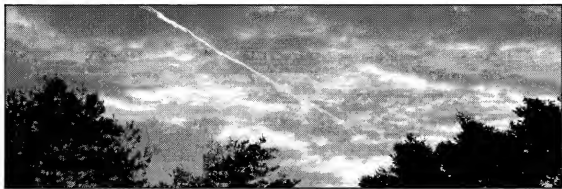


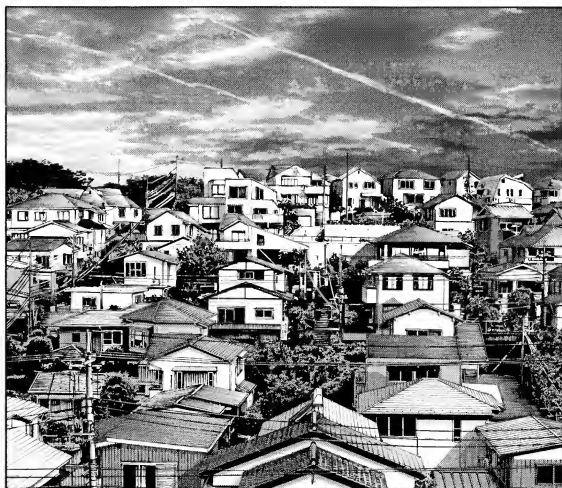




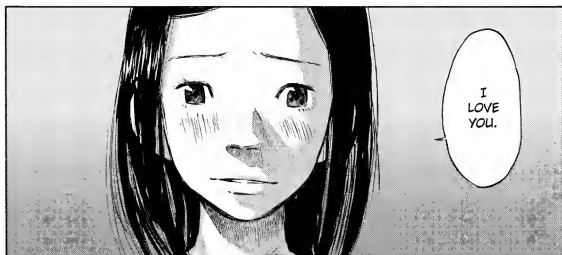














...and
softly
closed
the door.

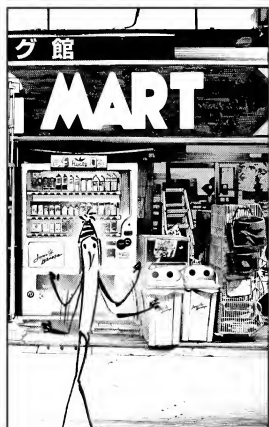
Punpun
didn't say
a thing...

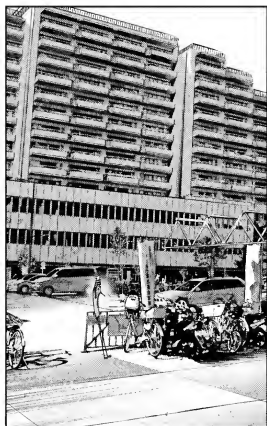


So he
kept
quiet.

...Punpun
felt like he'd
lose too many
important
things. That
they'd just
disappear.

If he
uttered
even a
single
word...







...like he
understood
all the
secrets of
mankind.

In that
instant,
Punpun
had felt...



Then
you
go all
shaky!

Mmm
...

Gasp!

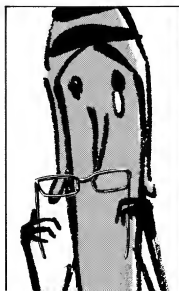
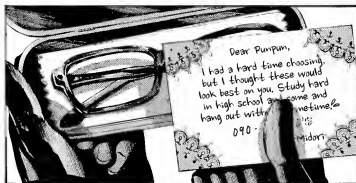
Then
you
float a
little!

Then
you
clench!

All
slimy!

So you
go all
slimy!



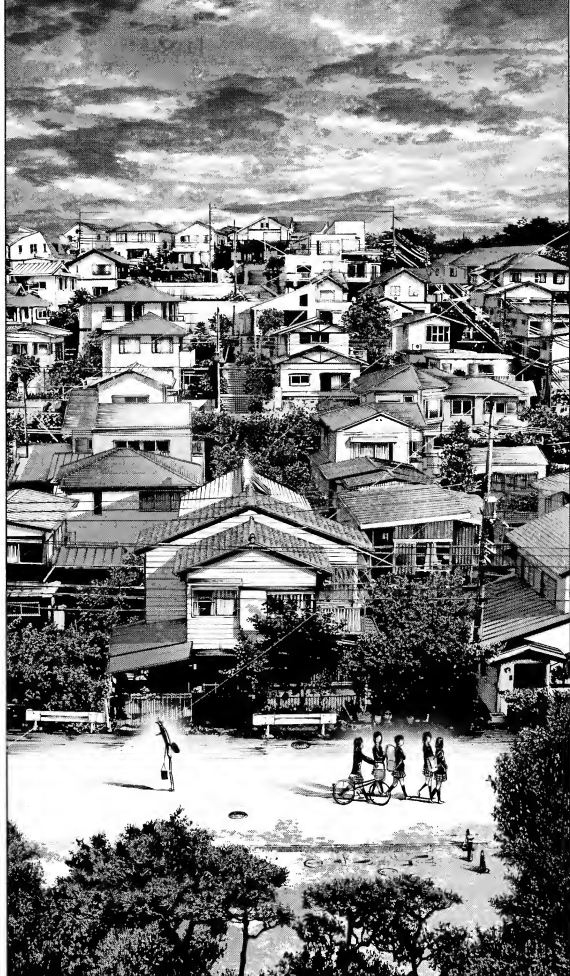


But
instead,
Punpun's
head was
empty.

Just like
the sky
after a
typhoon.

Or
that was
what was
supposed
to
happen.

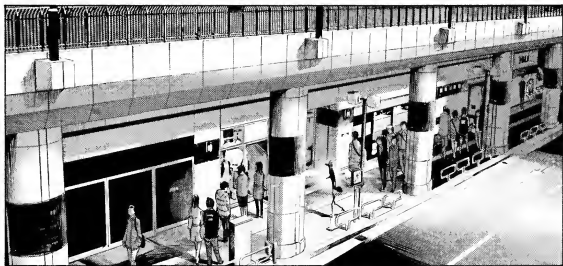






Punpun was
a little
indignant at
how selfish it
was being.

The sun was
brazenly
painting the
sky red.



...and so
it ended
up just
wavering.

...Punpun's
ever-growing
shadow had
nowhere left
to go...

With the sun
thoughtlessly
pushing
against his
back...



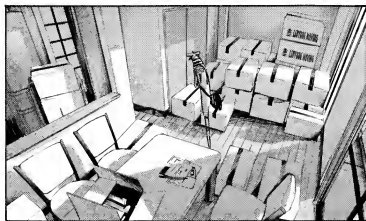
Punpun
asked his
shadow.

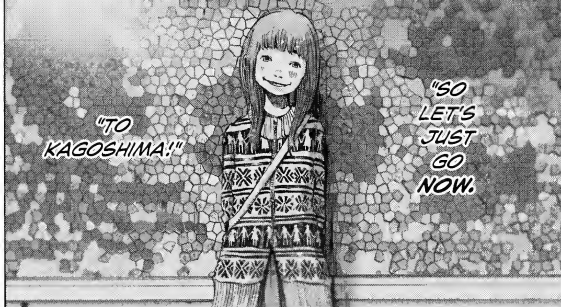
"What
are you
doing?"



...and
slowly
seeped
into
Punpun's
heart.

The
question
fluttered
futilely
through
the air...





...Punpun
thought,
maybe
there was
somewhere
else.

Instead
of this
boring,
stupid
place...

Somewhere
far away,
where he was
supposed to
be.



...what
he was
doing
or why
he was
there.

Punpun
no longer
knew...



Either that...

...or dead.



If
that
was
the
case...

...it
simpli-
fied
things.



From now on, whatever happened, Punpun wouldn't rely on anyone else. He'd have a good life all by himself.



Punpun hangs in there! He isn't the sort to give up in the face of adversity!

No, that's **not** right!

He's got character!

He's an intellectual!

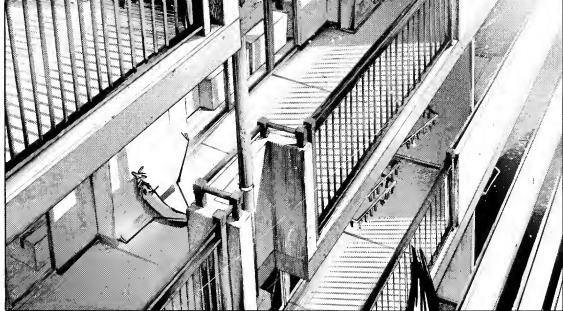


...was going to have a good life.

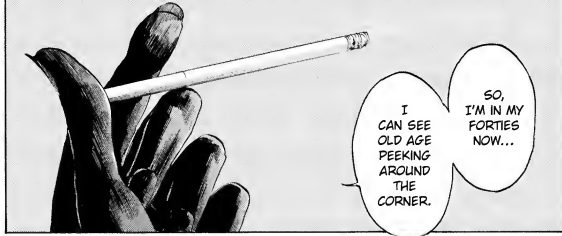
Punpun...





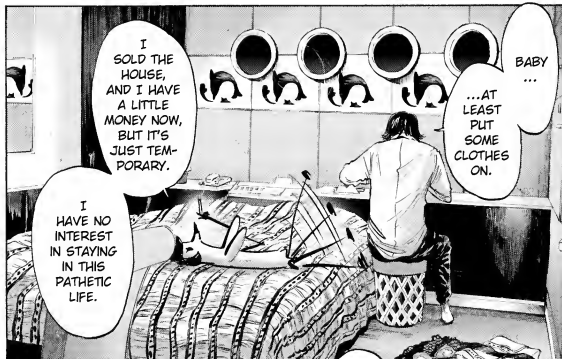






I
CAN SEE
OLD AGE
PEEKING
AROUND
THE
CORNER.

SO,
I'M IN MY
FORTIES
NOW...



I
SOLD THE
HOUSE,
AND I HAVE
A LITTLE
MONEY NOW,
BUT IT'S
JUST TEM-
PORARY.

I
HAVE NO
INTEREST
IN STAYING
IN THIS
PATHETIC
LIFE.

BABY
...

...AT
LEAST
PUT
SOME
CLOTHES
ON.



DID YOU
THINK I
WAS
GOING
TO SAY
"LEAVE
YOUR
WIFE"?!

STOP
IT.

OH,
WHAT'S
WITH
THAT
LOOK?!

DON'T
LUMP ME
TOGETHER
WITH ALL
THOSE
OTHER
STUPID
WOMEN.











...SO I'M
THINKING
ABOUT MORE
INANITIES
THAN USUAL.

IT'S
STUPID
SUNNY
TODAY...

PEOPLE
ARE
FREE.

WELL,
THEY
CAN'T FLY
ON THEIR
OWN...

...BUT PRETTY
MUCH WHATEVER
THEY CAN THINK
UP, THEY CAN
MAKE HAPPEN.



WHEN
THEY'RE
SLEEPY,
THEY CAN
SLEEP.



AND THE ONLY
REASON THEY DON'T
IS BECAUSE THINGS
LIKE SOCIAL NORMS,
LAWS, TRADITIONS
AND SENTIMENT GET
IN THE WAY.

THEY'RE FREE
TO START OR
QUIT WHATEVER
THEY'RE DOING
WHenever THEY
WANT.







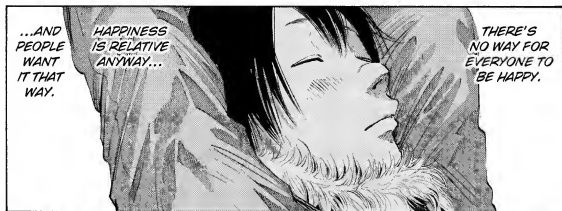
THE
WORLD IS THE
EMBODIMENT
OF HUMAN
NATURE
EXPOSED...

THEY'RE
JUST OLD
MEN WHO
HAVE TO
DANCE TO
PUBLIC
OPINION.

I'D HATE
TO TRUST
THE ENTIRE
THING TO
POLITICIANS.

WHO
KNOWS?

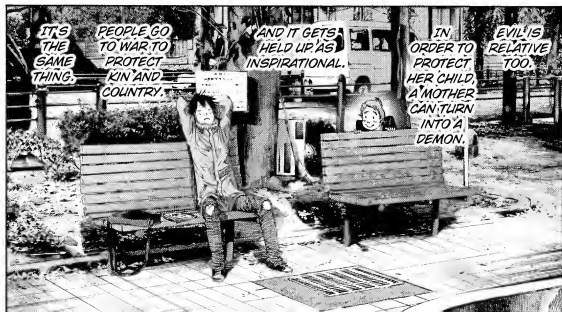
BUT IF A
KID COULD
FIGURE IT
OUT, WAR
WOULD'VE
GONE
EXTINCT A
LONG TIME
AGO.



...AND
PEOPLE
WANT
IT THAT
WAY.

HAPPINESS
IS RELATIVE
ANYWAY...

THERE'S
NO WAY FOR
EVERYONE TO
BE HAPPY.



IT'S
THE
SAME
THING.

PEOPLE GO
TO WAR TO
PROTECT
KIN AND
COUNTRY.

AND IT GETS
HELD UP AS
INSPIRATIONAL.

IN
ORDER TO
PROTECT
HER CHILD,
A MOTHER
CAN TURN
INTO A
DEMON.

EVIL IS
RELATIVE
TOO.





...MONEY.

I
REALLY
WANT...



I'M SO
HUNGRY.
I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT THE
STUPIDEST
THINGS.

THEY SAY
POVERTY
DULLS THE
WIT...



NOT
VERY
MUCH.



SHIMIZU
...



HEY, IT'S
A SCHOOL
DAY. WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

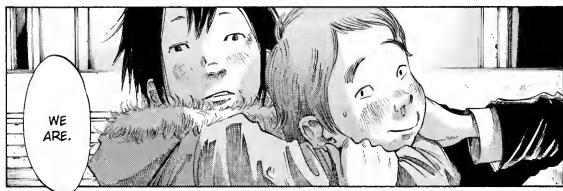
OH...

...DO
YOU
HAVE
ANY
MONEY?













I'LL DO
PRETTY
MUCH
ANYTHING.

YEAH
...

...
THAT'S
RIGHT.



OH
YEAH,
I KNOW
WHERE
THAT IS.

WE
SHOULD
MEET TO
DISCUSS THE
TERMS, SO
IF YOU WANT
TO PICK A
PLACE...

NO,
TODAY
IS FINE...



YOU CAN
CLEAN BY
YOURSELF,
RIGHT?

HUH?

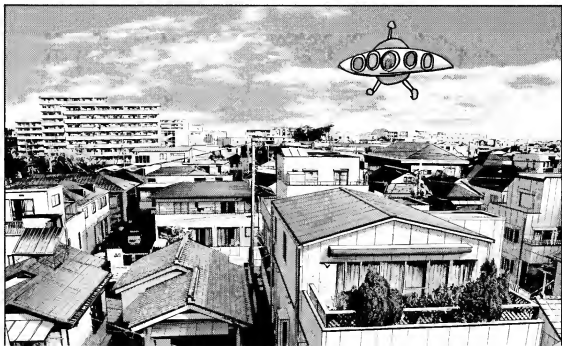


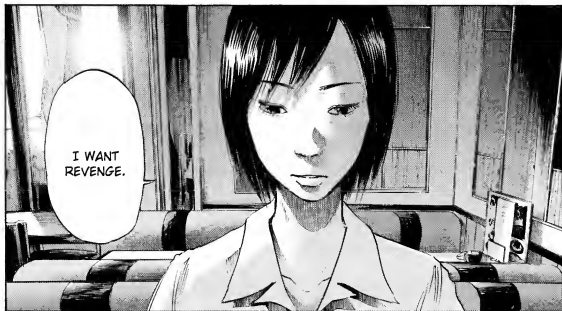
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME YOU
BECAME
INDEPENDENT.



OKAY,
I'M BOR-
ROWING
YOUR PHONE.

WE'LL
MEET
AT THE
PARK
WHEN
WE'RE
DONE.







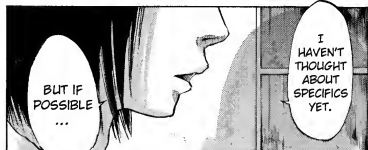
PUSHING
HIM OFF
A ROOF.

DIGGING
UP SOME
DIRT AND
BLACK-
MAILING
HIM.

BEAT-
ING HIM
UP.

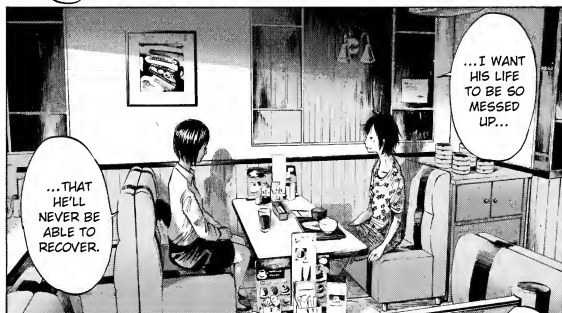
SO
THERE ARE
DEGREES
OF
REVENGE.

UHHM...



BUT IF
POSSIBLE
...

I
HAVEN'T
THOUGHT
ABOUT
SPECIFICS
YET.



...THAT
HE'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO
RECOVER.

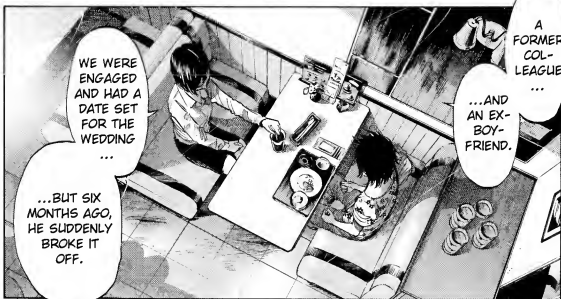
...I WANT
HIS LIFE
TO BE SO
MESSED
UP...



BUT HOW
DO YOU
KNOW THIS
GUY?

JUST
OUT OF
CURIOSITY
...

AND
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
ANSWER IF
YOU DON'T
WANT
TO...



WE WERE
ENGAGED
AND HAD A
DATE SET
FOR THE
WEDDING
...

...BUT SIX
MONTHS AGO,
HE SUDDENLY
BROKE IT
OFF.

A
FORMER
COL-
LEAGUE
...

...AND
AN EX-
BOY-
FRIEND.

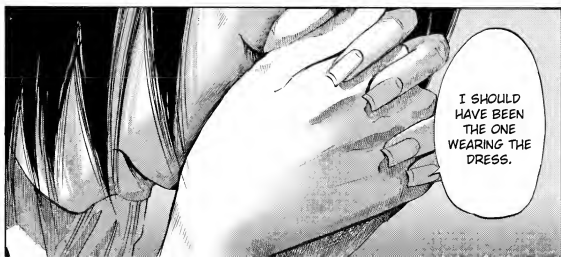


...MAYBE
YOU DIDN'T
NEED TO
QUIT YOUR
JOB JUST
BECAUSE HE
BROKE UP
WITH YOU.

WELL
...

I
THOUGHT
I WAS A
CAPABLE
PERSON...

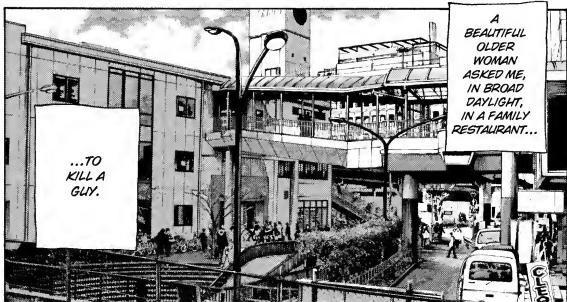
...BUT AFTER
I LEFT MY JOB,
I HAVEN'T BEEN
ABLE TO FIND
ANOTHER ONE,
AND NOTHING IS
GOING RIGHT.

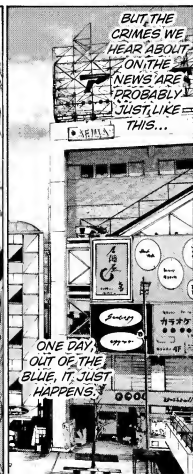










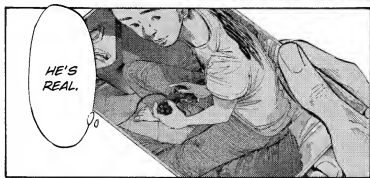




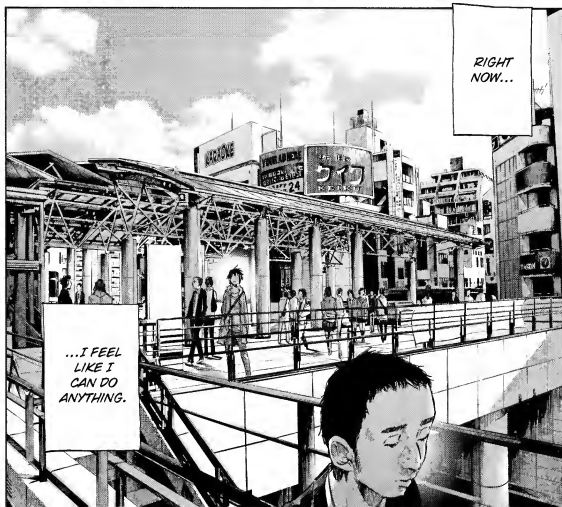
...
DESTINY.



SO
THIS
IS...



HE'S
REAL.



RIGHT
NOW...

....I FEEL
LIKE I
CAN DO
ANYTHING.

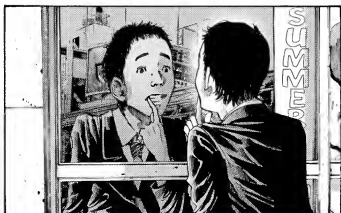


...AVERAGE
CITIZEN.

HE'S
YOUR
BASIC,
ORDINARY...

I
GET
IT...





I DON'T
THINK HE'S
PARTICU-
LARLY BAD.



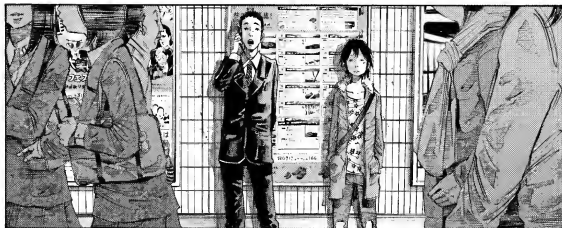
TRULY
RIGHTEOUS
PEOPLE
DON'T
EXIST.

OF
COURSE,
ON THE
SURFACE,
THAT WOMAN
SEEMS THE
SAME.



I'M
SURE...

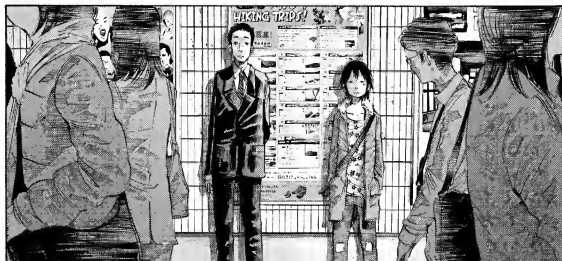
...THEY'RE
JUST A
LITTLE OFF-
BALANCE...

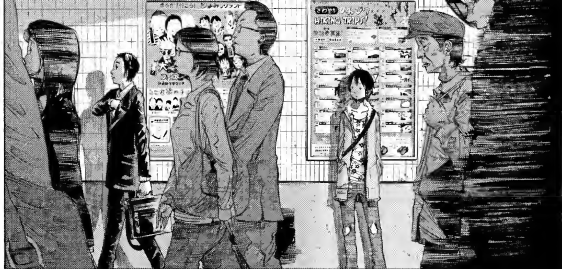


...OR
SUDDENLY
JERK TO A
STOP.

THEY FLAIL
AROUND LIKE
PUPPETS ON
A STRING...

THE MORE
YOU OBSERVE
PEOPLE, THE
MORE ALIEN
THEY ARE.





...BUT I
DON'T THINK
A SINGLE
ONE IS
GENUINE.

THERE ARE
SO MANY
PEOPLE HERE
RIGHT NOW...

I
WONDER...



THEY'VE
LOST
SIGHT OF
WHO THEY
REALLY
ARE.

EMPTY
SHELLS,
EVERY
LAST ONE
OF THEM.



HOW DO
I PROVE
THAT I'M
ME?

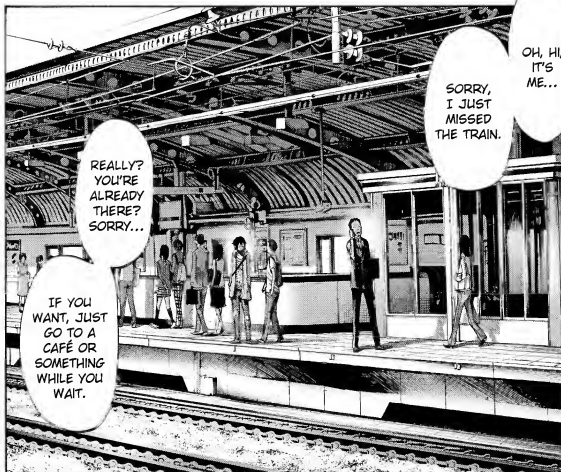
THAT'S
TRUE
FOR ME
TOO.



AN
ALL-SEEING,
ALL-KNOWING
ENTITY IS
SUCH A
CROCK.

"I CAN
SEE
GOD."

WHEN
WE WERE
LITTLE,
SHIMIZU
USED TO
SAY...



REALLY?
YOU'RE
ALREADY
THERE?
SORRY...

IF YOU
WANT, JUST
GO TO A
CAFÉ OR
SOMETHING
WHILE YOU
WAIT.

SORRY,
I JUST
MISSED
THE TRAIN.

OH, HI,
IT'S
ME...

...AND
SOMEHOW YOU
SURVIVE. IS
THAT BEING
HUMAN?

...YOU CREATE
A GOD TO CLING
TO, AND THEN
HEAP ALL YOUR
FEARS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES
ONTO HIM...

BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE...



...IS SO VIVID
AND ALIVE,
IT'S ALMOST
CREEPY.

...THE FEEL OF
THAT \$1,000
DEPOSIT IN MY
POCKET...

...OR
AT LEAST
FOR THIS
MOMENT...

UNFORTUNATELY,
TODAY...



THAT'S
ALL THERE
IS TO IT.

THERE'S
HIS BACK.
I PUSH IT.

PLEASE
WAIT
BEHIND
THE WHITE
LINE.

EXPRESS
TRAIN
COMING
THROUGH
ON
PLATFORM
1.

NO
SENSE
OF
JUSTICE.

NO
SENSE
OF
MALICE.

THERE'S
NO REAL
SENSE OF
MEANING.

SO.

JUST
DO IT.

← 11 中央線
in Chūō-sen
電別 Tokei 行先 To 先頭表示 stop time 報知 board
TRAIN WON'T STOP

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, ALERT A STATION

PEOPLE
ARE FREE,
RIGHT?

WHAT...

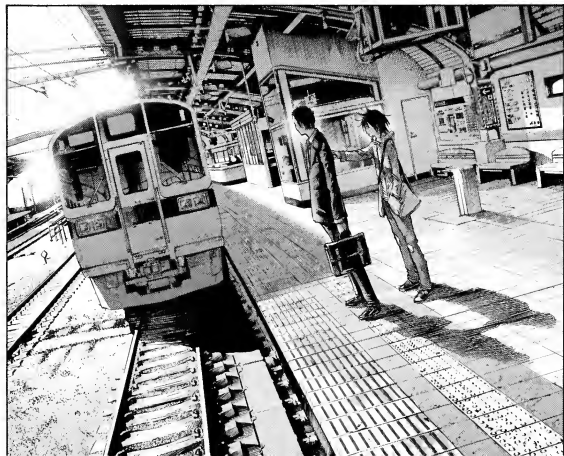
...WHAT
THE FUCK
IS IT?

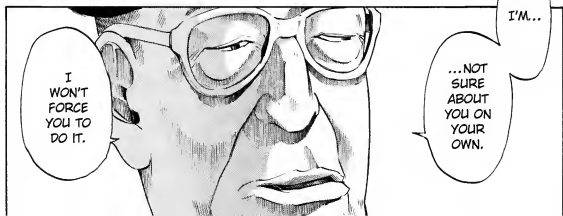
...A
STUPID...

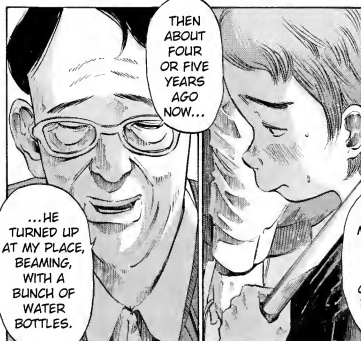
TODAY
REALLY
IS...

...NICE
DAY.









THEN ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO NOW...

...HE TURNED UP AT MY PLACE, BEAMING, WITH A BUNCH OF WATER BOTTLES.

HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY, BUT HE WAS A NICE OLD GUY, SO I GAVE HIM A BIG BREAK ON THE RENT.

THE ROOM WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN WAS RENTED TO AN OLD MAN IN HIS SEVENTIES WITH NO FAMILY.



I ASKED IF HE'D GOTTEN INTO RELIGION ...

...BUT HE ABSOLUTELY DENIED IT.

HE SAID THE WATER WAS INFUSED WITH POWER AND WANTED ME TO DRINK IT FOR MY HEALTH.

AND HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "IF YOU DON'T SMILE ENOUGH, YOU'LL BE MISERABLE."



OH, HERE WE ARE.

...AND I DRINK SAKE LIKE WATER, SO I GAVE IT ALL BACK TO HIM...

WELL, I WAS BORN WITH MY FACE LIKE THIS...

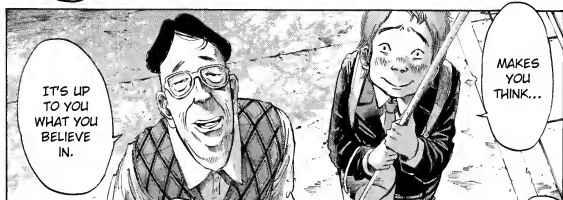


YOU
KNOW
HOW IT'S
BEEN SO
NICE AND
WARM
LATELY...

THERE
WAS A LOT OF
DECOMPOSITION,
AND THE ROOM
LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
COVERED IN
JELLY.

I
THINK
IT WAS
A SUB-
ARACH-
NOID
HEMOR-
RHAGE.

WELL,
HE
REALLY
DIED OF
LONELI-
NESS.



IT'S UP
TO YOU
WHAT YOU
BELIEVE
IN.

MAKES
YOU
THINK...



YOU CAN
SMILE ON
YOUR OWN
ALL YOU
WANT...

BUT
FAITH...

...BUT IN
THE END,
BEING
ALONE IS
JUST TOO
LONELY.

ESSEN-
TIAL-
LY, IT
ISN'T THE
POINT OF
LIVING,
IT'S JUST
A MEANS
OF LIVING,
RIGHT?



IF
HE'D JUST
MADE AN
EFFORT AT
NORMAL
CONVER-
SATION...

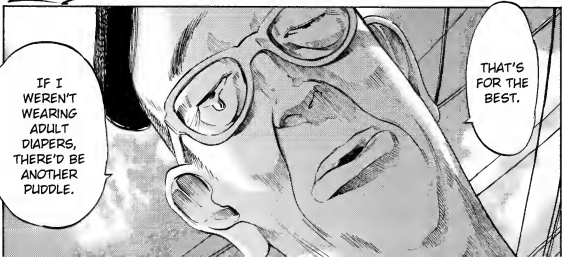
...I'M
SURE WE
COULD'VE
BEEN
FRIENDLY
ENOUGH
TO GRAB
A DRINK
TOGETHER.

HE
REALLY
WAS AN
UNPRE-
TENTIOUS
MAN.



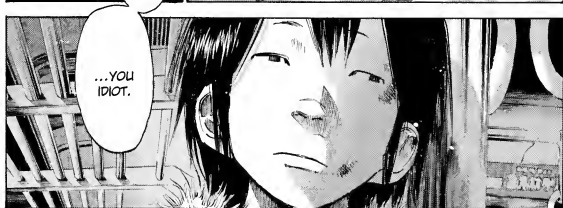
S-S-S-
SORRY.

I-I
HAVE
TO GO
HOME.

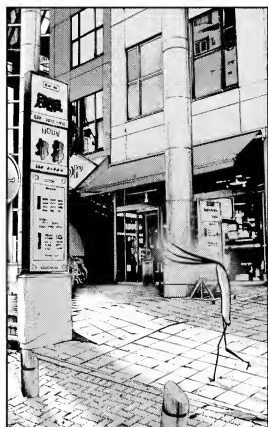


IF I
WEREN'T
WEARING
ADULT
DIAPERS,
THERE'D BE
ANOTHER
PUDDLE.

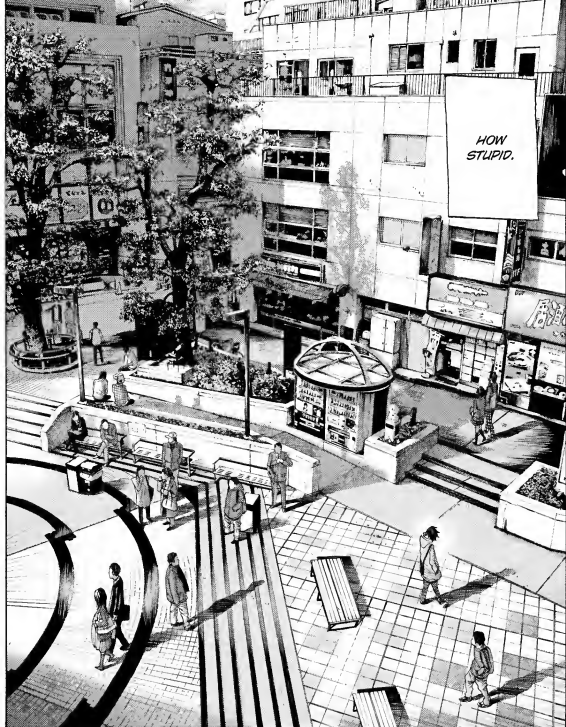
THAT'S
FOR THE
BEST.

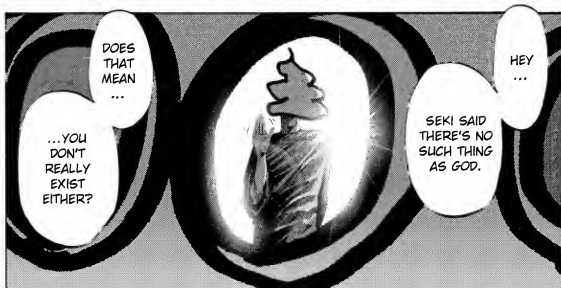


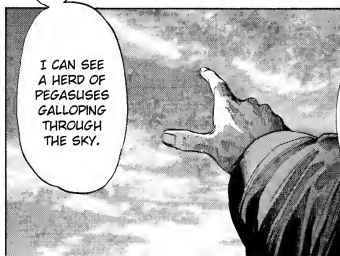


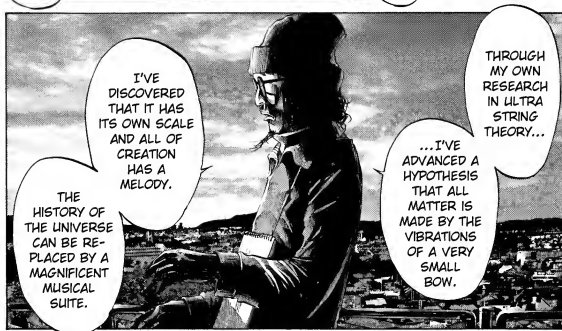














I'M NOT
A CREEP,
I'M NOT
A CREEP!

WAIT,
WAIT.

OH,
OH,
OH...



I KNOW
THERE'S
SOMETHING
ONLY YOU
CAN DO.



ONE DAY
I STARTED
HEARING
STRANGE
MELODIES
IN MY
DREAMS.



BY
WRITING THEM
DOWN AND
ANALYZING
THEM, I WAS
ABLE TO
ACCESS THE
FUTURE.



LISTEN
TO ME...

WE
ARE THE
CHOSEN
PEOPLE.



...THE
EARTH
WILL BE
DESTROYED.

IF WE
GO ON LIKE
THIS, IN FIVE
YEARS' TIME,
ON JULY 7...



WE
NEED
YOUR
HELP.

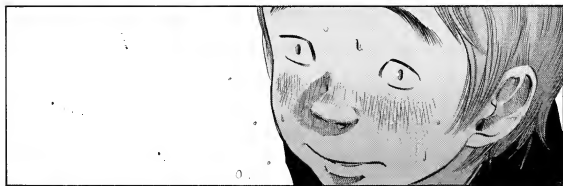
OUR
COMRADES
HAVE
SLOWLY
STARTED
GATHERING.



FOR LOVE
AND PEACE
AND THE
PURSUIT OF
HUMANITY.

OUR
VIBRATIONS
ARE
POWERFULLY
MATCHED
AS PERFECT
FIFTHS.

WILL
YOU
COME
WITH
ME?



SO WHY
DID I COME
BACK?

I COULD'VE
JUST TAKEN
THE MONEY
AND RUN...

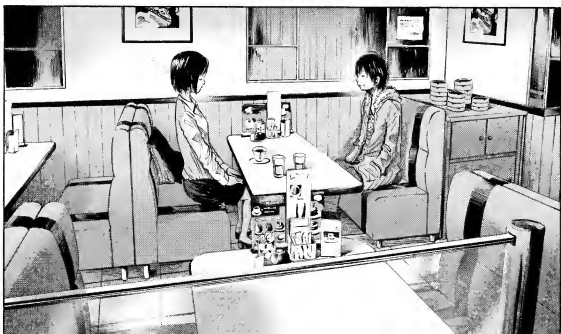
WHATEVER...

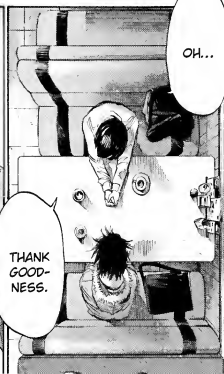


SHE
WANTS
TO DIE
ANYWAY.



I
COULD
TELL HER A
BLINCH OF
LIES AND
TAKE ALL
HER MONEY.







I'M
SORRY...

I'M
REALLY
ALL OVER
THE
PLACE
TODAY.

HUH?!

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU?
WHY ARE
YOU
CRYING?

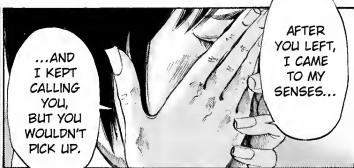


I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
BLURT OUT
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.



REALLY
...

...I JUST
WANTED
HIM TO
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'D
BEEN GOING
THROUGH.



...AND
I KEPT
CALLING
YOU,
BUT YOU
WOULDN'T
PICK UP.

AFTER
YOU LEFT,
I CAME
TO MY
SENSES...



I
GUESS
I WAS
PRETTY
SHAKEN
UP TOO.

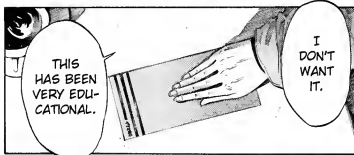
HUH.



PEOPLE'S
FATES SEEM
TO CHANGE
JUST LIKE
THAT,
ACCORDING
TO THE
WEATHER.

I
THINK...

...YOU
SHOULD
THANK THE
GOD IN
CHARGE OF
TODAY'S
WEATHER.



THIS
HAS BEEN
VERY EDU-
CATIONAL.

I
DON'T
WANT
IT.



KEEP
THE
MONEY I
ALREADY
GAVE
YOU.

JUST
PLEASE
FORGET
WHAT
HAPPENED.



PEOPLE
ARE JUST
A BUNCH
OF WEAK
CREATURES
PRETENDING
TO BE
STRONG.

HEY...



YOU DON'T LOOK IT.

EVERY-ONE SAYS THAT.



THIRTY-FIVE.



HOW OLD ARE YOU?



YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME.

HEH HEH...

...SO THAT'S IT...



HAVE DINNER ON ME.

HERE'S SOME MONEY...





YOU'RE
JUST A
KID.

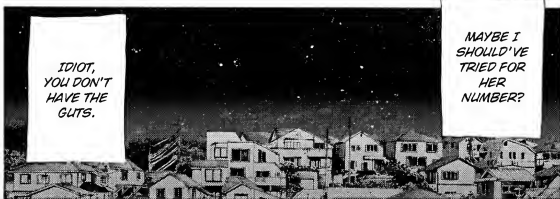
DON'T
ACT LIKE
YOU KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.





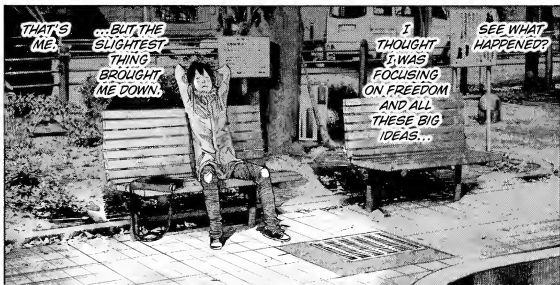
YOU'RE
RIGHT—
I THINK
SO TOO.

THAT'S
INFURIAT-
ING.



IDIOT,
YOU DON'T
HAVE THE
GUTS.

MAYBE I
SHOULD'VE
TRIED FOR
HER
NUMBER?



THAT'S
ME.

...BUT THE
SLIGHTEST
THING
BROUGHT
ME DOWN.

I
THOUGHT
I WAS
FOCUSING
ON FREEDOM
AND ALL
THESE BIG
IDEAS...

SEE WHAT
HAPPENED?



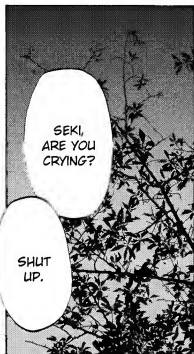
I
WONDER IF
HE'S ANGRY
BECAUSE
I JUST DO
WHAT I WANT
ALL THE
TIME.

WHERE IS
SHIMIZU?



GUESS
WHO?

I'M
JUST...
A LITTLE
SORRY.



SEKI,
ARE YOU
CRYING?

SHUT
UP.



YOU'RE
LATE,
SHIMIZU.

FOR A
SECOND
THERE, I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
NEVER
COME
BACK.



HEY, WHY
ARE YOU
WEARING
SWEATS?

MORE
TO THE
POINT, DID
YOU GET
PAID FOR
CLEAN-
ING?



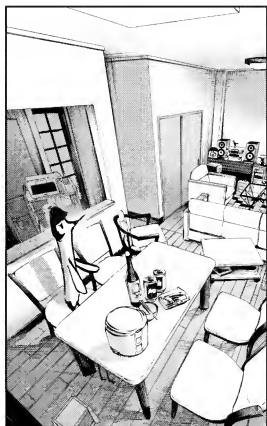
TODAY
WAS MORE
FUN THAN
USUAL.

WELL...
NEVER
MIND.



SIGH.

PEOPLE
ARE SO
STUPID.











ISN'T IT
RISKY TO
SMUGGLE
IN
BOOZE?

HEY,
WHERE'S
KANIE?

MIMURA IS
SO PROUD
OF HAVING
SCREWED
THIRTY
GIRLS IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

I HEARD
SHE'S
HAVING
AN AFFAIR
WITH HER
MANAGER.

NO
WORRIES.
ACTUALLY,
I THINK
WE NEED
MORE.

HA HA,
HOW
PATHETIC.

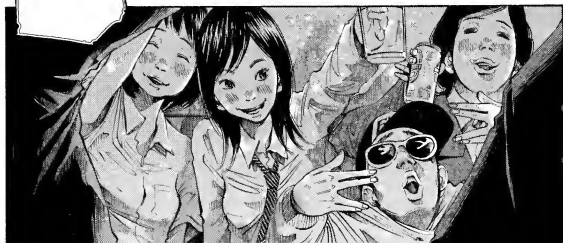
And he
wanted to
say, very
frankly...

Punpun's high
school life,
with all new
classmates,
had just
started.



MIDTERMS
ARE
OVER!

LET'S
GO ALL
OUT!





...that he was
absolutely
stunned by
how out of
place he felt.

...Punpun's
heart was
still full of
unbelonging.

Even with
his hair
gelled and
wearing
baggy
pants...



OKAY,
I'M
KING.

SOMEONE
GO GET
MORE
BOOZE
AT THE
CORNER
STORE.

OKAY, SO
NUMBER
FOUR HAS
TO FRENCH
NUMBER
SIX.

NO WAY,
YOU IDIOT.
THAT'S
GOING
TOO FAR.

ACTUALLY,
LET'S DO
TOM YUM
KUN. YES,
LET'S DO
KUN.

OH, AND
ONE OF
THOSE
TOM YUM
TOFU
THINGS.

Let's do
cunni-

BUT
NOTICE
YOU'RE
NOT SAYING
NO! THAT'S
WHY I LIKE
YOU.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS,
MIMURA?
I'M
NUMBER
FOUR!

Delinquents!

*You
SKANK!*

ONOTTI,
IT'S LIKE
YOU'RE
IN A
COMA!

PUMP
IT
UP!

HEY
HEY HEY
HEY...

YAAAAY☆



...all his
cells would
turn into
bubbles
and burst.

If
someone
didn't
embrace
him
soon...

Hurry!

...if
someone
would let
him stick
it in, just
the tip.

...he
would be
ever so
grateful...

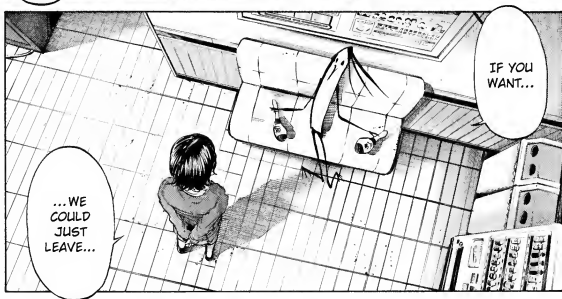
Also, if it
wasn't too
much to
ask...

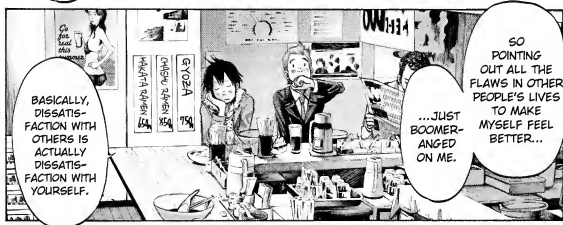


...ARE
YOU
OKAY?

ONODERA
...









...
EVENTUALLY
WE WON'T
HAVE TIME
TO HANG
OUT THAT
MUCH.

...UM,
FOR
EXAMPLE,
IF YOU
FALL IN
LOVE...

BUT YOU
KNOW,
SHIMIZU
...



IDIOT
...

I'M ONLY
DRINKING
COKE...

SEKI,
IT'S LIKE
YOU'RE
DRUNK.



...DO
YOU
THINK
WE'LL
BE?

WHAT
KIND OF
ADULTS
...

HEY,
SHI-
MIZU
...





GEEZ
...

...MY
NARROW-
MINDEDNESS
MAKES ME A
LITTLE SAD.



...THERE'S
A PART OF
ME THAT
WANTS
TO MOCK
THEM TOO.

BUT...



PEOPLE
USUALLY
TELL ME MY
STORIES
ARE
BORING.

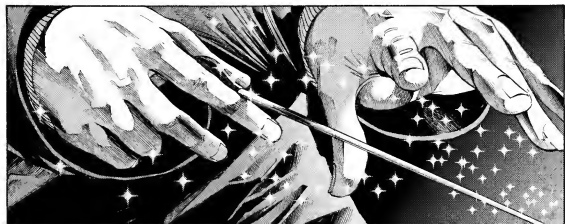
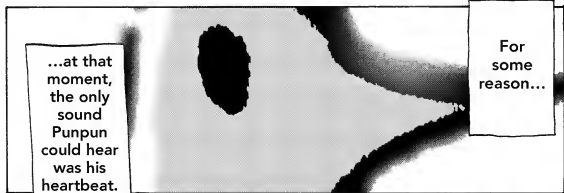
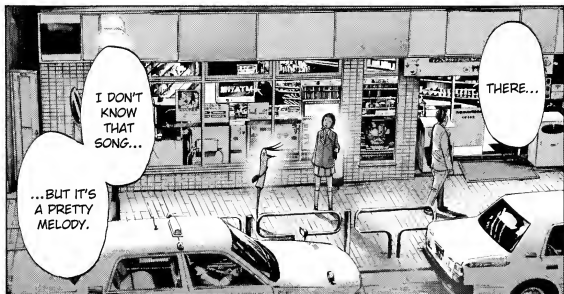
OH, SORRY,
IT'S NOT LIKE
THERE'S A
POINT TO
THIS.



HEY.

...because
Punpun
pretty
much
agreed
with her.

There
didn't
need
to be a
point...



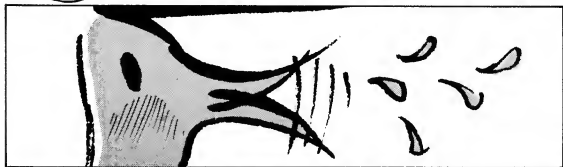


GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Five

INIO ASANO



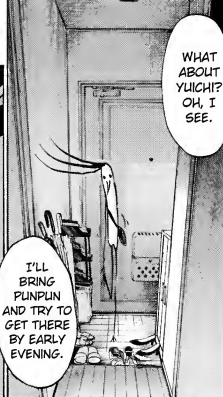






NO, NEVER
MIND, I'LL
SEE YOU
TOMORROW.

SORRY
TO PUT
YOU OUT,
MIDORI...



WHAT
ABOUT
YUICHI?
OH, I
SEE.

I'LL
BRING
PUNPUN
AND TRY TO
GET THERE
BY EARLY
EVENING.



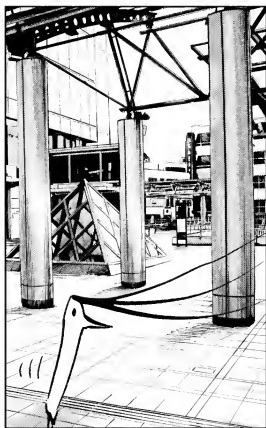
HI,
PUNPUN.

OH...



YOUR
GRANDPA
DIED.







But...

...absolutely
not.

To be
honest...





BY
THE TIME
THEY FOUND
HIM ON THE
BATHROOM
FLOOR, IT
WAS TOO
LATE.

HE WAS
REALLY
SERIOUS
AND NOT
MUCH FUN.

ACTUALLY,
YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
GRANDPA...



HOW
LONG HAS
IT BEEN
SINCE
YOU'VE
BEEN TO
THEIR
HOUSE?



...YOU
COULD
AT LEAST
ACKNOWLEDGE
ME.

HEY...

ONODERA

A black and white comic panel showing a man lying in a hospital bed. He is covered by a blanket with a large bird pattern. A small electronic device is clipped to the blanket near his chest. The room has a window with a small plant on the sill, a patterned pillow, and a bedside table with a radio.

WELL
...

...I GUESS
IT'S GOOD
HE WENT
SUDDENLY.

HE
HAD CANCER
WHEN HE WAS
YOUNGER AND
HE'S HAD TWO
STROKES, SO
HE WASN'T
IN THE BEST
SHAPE.

A close-up black and white comic panel of the man's face. He is lying in bed, looking upwards with a pained or distressed expression. The bird-patterned blanket is visible at the bottom of the frame.

AND HE
DIDN'T WANT
HIS KIDS TO
TAKE CARE
OF HIM,
RIGHT?

I FELT LIKE
TELLING HIM,
"DON'T BE SO
STUBBORN!" BUT
I GUESS WE'RE
LUCKY THAT HE
WASN'T MUCH
TROUBLE.



IF WE
HADN'T BEEN
AWAY ON
A TRIP, WE
MIGHT'VE
FOUND HIM
SOONER.

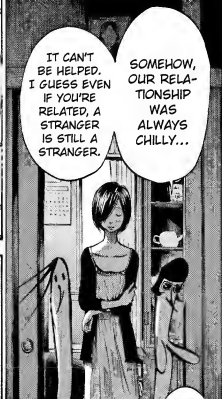
I'M SO
SORRY...

IT CAN'T
BE HELPED.
I GUESS EVEN
IF YOU'RE
RELATED, A
STRANGER
IS STILL A
STRANGER.

SOMEHOW,
OUR RELA-
TIONSHIP
WAS
ALWAYS
CHILLY...



DON'T
WORRY.
IT WAS
HIS
TIME.



WHERE'S
YUICHI?

OKAY,
I'LL GO
STICK
MY HEAD
IN...

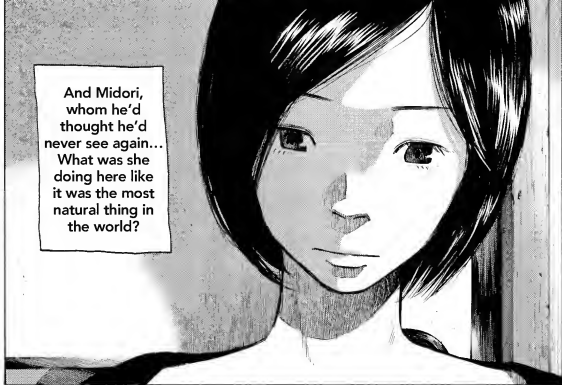
I HAVE
SOMETHING
TO DO
LATER, SO
I NEED
TO LEAVE
SOON.

HE'S
UPSTAIRS,
TALKING
TO THE
FUNERAL
PARLOR.

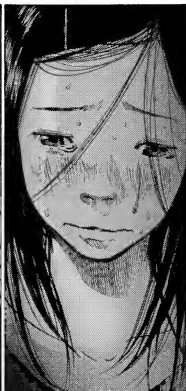
For instance,
when had
Uncle Yuichi
come home?

Punpun
wasn't quite
sure what
was going
on.

And Midori,
whom he'd
thought he'd
never see again...
What was she
doing here like
it was the most
natural thing in
the world?



Punpun
was just
the
slightest
bit
rattled.





I HAVE
SOMETHING
FOR YOU.

...THAT'S
RIGHT.

OH...



WE
WENT TO A
HOT SPRING
INN IN GUNMA,
SO THIS ISN'T
ANYTHING
SPECTACU-
LAR.

WHAT
WITH YOUR
GRANDPA AND
EVERYTHING,
I DOUBT
WE'LL HAVE A
WEDDING ANY
TIME SOON...

BUT I
GUESS
WE WERE
ON OUR
HONEY-
MOON.

WAIT
...

...DIDN'T
YOUR MOM
TELL YOU?





YUICHI
AND I GOT
MARRIED.

I...



SHE
HASN'T
SAID ANY-
THING?

REALLY?



THE DAY
AFTER YOU
CAME TO
SEE ME IN
THE CAFÉ...

...YUICHI
JUST
TURNED
UP.

...YOU
KNOW,
THAT
DAY...

THE
DAY
AFTER
...



JUST
KIDDING.

WELL...



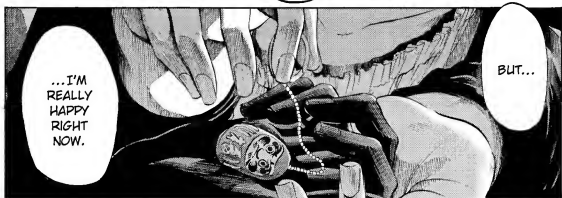
...IS MILDLY
DEPRESSED,
AND HE'S
SEEING A
THERAPIST
NOW.

YUICHI
...



I
DECIDED
TO KEEP
HIM IN THE
PALM OF
MY HAND
UNTIL HE
DIES...

SO I
MADE A
DECISION.



...I'M
REALLY
HAPPY
RIGHT
NOW.

BUT...



...YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
RIGHT?

SO...



...to rip out
her clitoris
and her
pubic hair
and throw it
all in a ditch.

Punpun
thought
about
how great
it would
feel...

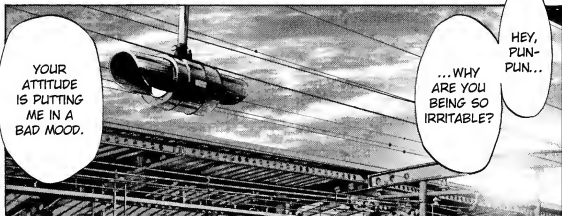


YEAH.

THANKS.

But
for some
reason,
what came
out was
"Congratu-
lations."







YOU
NEVER
HAVE ANY
INTEREST
IN WHAT
ANYONE
ELSE IS
DOING...

...JUST LIKE
ME! THAT'S
RIGHT, I
SAID IT. HA
HA HA!

ARE
YOU MAD
BECAUSE
I DIDN'T
TELL YOU
ABOUT
YUICHI
AND
MIDORI?

I
WASN'T
HIDING IT.
YOU JUST
NEVER
ASKED.



WHY
DON'T YOU
SMIRK
LIKE
BEFORE?

IT'S A
JOKE!
LAUGH...



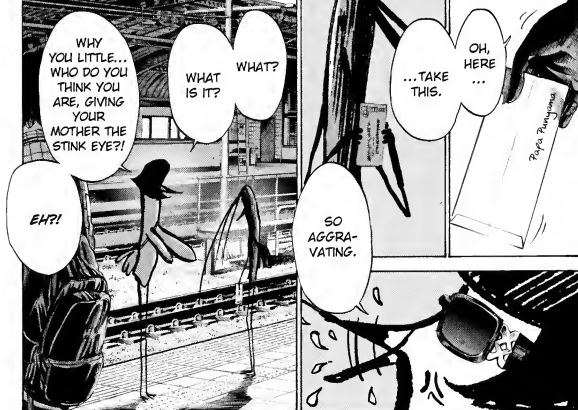
WHEN
I
DIE...

TELL
ME
THIS...

...HOW
MUCH DO
YOU THINK
YOU'LL
GRIEVE?

WHAT
IS IT?

YOU
THINK I
SHOULD BE
A BIT MORE
SOMBER
SINCE I'VE
JUST LOST
A PARENT?





WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM?!

IF YOU
HAVE
SOME-
THING
TO SAY,
JUST
SAY IT!

DAMN
IT!



IDIOT!



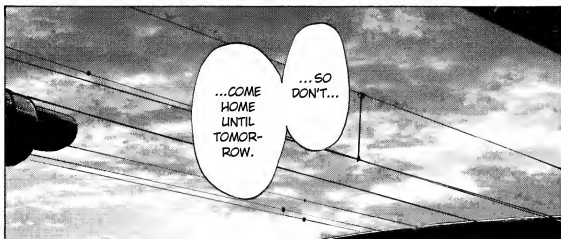
I
HATE THAT
KIND OF
USELESS
NARCIS-
SISM!

DON'T
PLAY
THE
VICTIM!

DON'T
CRY!

HA HA
HA HO
HO HO—
COUGH
COUGH!

AAGH
...
ALWAYS
GOING
AROUND WITH
THAT "MY
SENSITIVE,
WOUNDED
SOUL" LOOK
ON YOUR
FACE!



This
month's
letter
was...

...of the three going to the...
sport to follow and I may also stop...
in having all those channels if the teams are all awful! Like both know that sn't
true. I can't believe I'm spending my days like this, but it's early draft picks will
can't look away. Pumpun you're in high school now so you'll probably be seeing
10. Boys your age are getting scooped up by professional teams and
ed by the media like they're rock stars and offered 10 million yen signing
married to a news anchor with a huge house and a gold plated car. These days
uses when we all know they're just going to burn out in a few years and end
been...
ing keenly the inequality of the world and it makes me think about
your future. Don't be like your old man, Pumpun. Don't let them
ng you down. Make your spirit expansive, like the endlessly...
and your peace, like the stars.
Love,

...but
Punpun had
never found
his dad's
letters as
dull as he
did today.

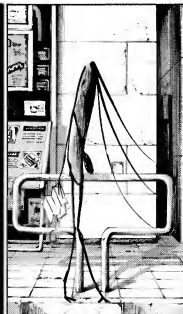
...full of
baseball
and outer
space,
as usual...

"Wouldn't
it be
wonderful
to run at full
speed past
the train
station,
stark naked,
chanting
black magic
spells?"

Punpun
thought
...

"Why
are
grown-ups
so
selfish?"

Punpun
thought
...





Elevate
your
mood
and go
for it!

That's
right...

Maybe
something
good will
happen
tomorrow?

The world
is probably
overflowing
with kind-
ness and
happiness.

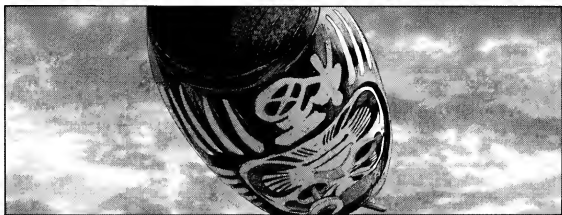
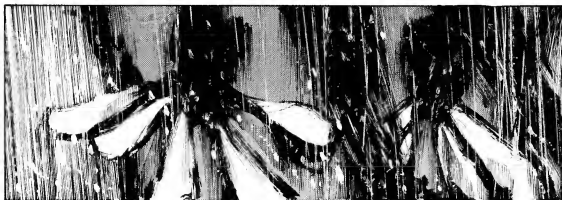
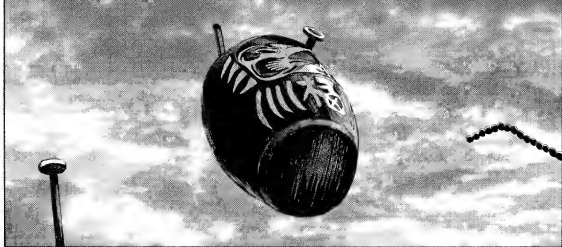
It's his
fault...

No,
no, can't
have such
dangerous
thoughts...





Impossible!



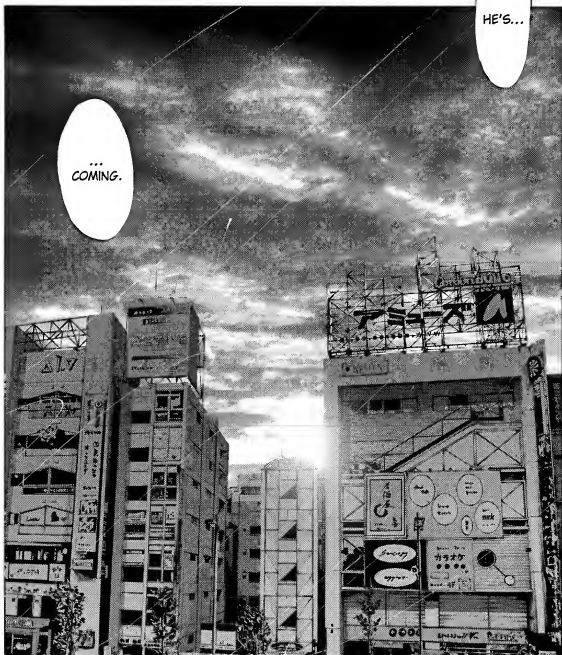


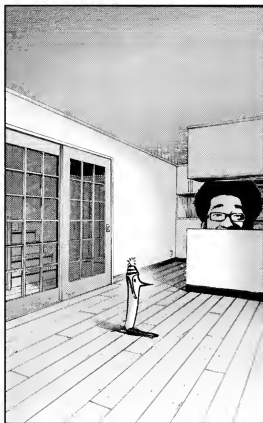




HE'S...

...
COMING.





GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Five

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION: Kumatsuto
Yasumasa Iwama
Yu Uehara
Takashi Kume



I want to know what happens to Punpun!

Nice to meet you, Mr. Asano. I'm a Punpun fan in third grade who lives in Kawasaki.

At first, when my classmate Hiroshi's older brother (buzz cut) recommended it to me, I didn't understand why it was any good. But recently I got it, and I think it's very good.

I have one question for you, Mr. Asano. When is *Goodnight Punpun* going to become a battle fantasy manga? I'm getting impatient because Punpun isn't going off for training or learning a killer move. But my classmate Hiroshi's older brother (buzz cut) says, "This is called 'pulling,' and it is a very advanced technique in comic books." Is it or isn't it? Hurry up and let us know. You can call me on my cell phone and just let me know. Darn it, *pant, pant*. I got a little excited there. You're a twisted one, Mr. Asano.

I thought you might be stuck for ideas, so I've enclosed my candidate for a nemesis. If you're going to use it, please get in touch and ask for permission. You can reach me directly on my cell phone.

Kind regards,
Junya



Junya Okamoto
(Third grade, 8 years old)
Kawasaki, Kanagawa



Is there a limit to the comic expression horizon?!

Hey, Asano! (Sorry to be so casual.) I am a cherry boy, a young soul, a dynamite, a second-year high school student who enjoys every chapter of *Goodnight Punpun*. (sweats excitedly)

My favorite character is Sasuke! (Wait, is that a character? Oops!) I feel that recently your story line is in a bit of a rut. (gingerly) But that scene where Punpun jumps from building to building on his bike was just so intense. (Wait, was that a scene? Oh crap.) Anyway, I have one question! (energetically) Why is this Punpun character so strange looking? Is it some kind of metaphor? It bothers me so much I can only sleep at night. Is he in the shape of a bird...or an alien...or...? Never mind. I won't ask anymore. So basically, we'll leave it at "there are as many interpretations as there are people," right? Right? (Sorry to be so familiar.) By the way, a senior guy in my school who is also a Goodpunner (a Punpun fan, don't you know) sends me smoke signals every day telling me to read Freud. Help me!

So in conclusion, Mr. Asanovich. (Wait, was that your name? Nirvana!) Please feel free to continue your serial. I plan to work full steam ahead to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a falconer. Later, boing!

-Issei



Issei Maeda
(Second year in high school, 17 years old)
Musashino, Tokyo



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN
Part Six



CONTENTS

STORY THUS FAR...

Punpun is enrolled in a highly competitive local high school. He is super excited about having a date with his classmate Kanie, but after he has a fight with his mom, she tells him not to come home. Not a great beginning to the summer of his 15th year.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



PUNPUN ONODERA

He's 15 years old and in his first year in high school. Height: 200 meters. Weight: 5 tons. Spews fire.



MAMA ONODERA

Punpun's mother. Works in a supermarket. She can fly by transforming her body scales into wings.



YUICHI ONODERA

Mama's younger brother. Teacher at a pottery school. He suffers from mild depression and is currently seeing a therapist.



MIDORI ONODERA

Yuichi's wife. Runs a café. In the language of fungi, she is a golden scalycap mushroom.



AZUSA KANIE

Punpun's classmate. She's 15 and is worried about whether her bangs are too short.



AIKO TANAKA

The classmate Punpun loved in elementary and middle school.



YUKINOSHIN MIMURA

Punpun's classmate. Holds the rank of 100-dan in delusional kendo. His special skill is the high-speed rear leap.



TOSHIKI

A sorcerer with no known address.

Chapter 57

227

Chapter 58

247

Chapter 59

267

Chapter 60

285

Chapter 61

305

Chapter 62

325

Chapter 63

343

Chapter 64

363

Chapter 65

383

Chapter 66

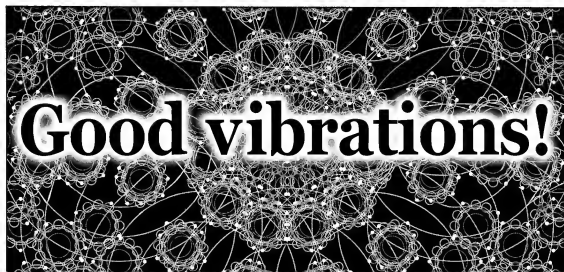
403

Chapter 67

425









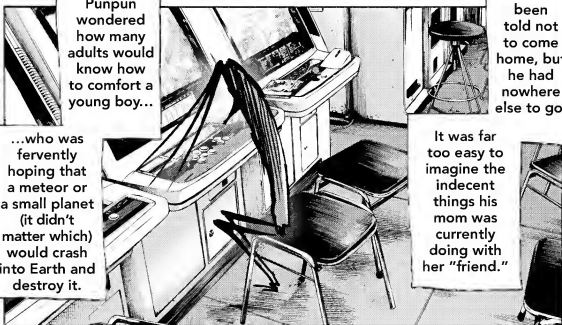
Punpun had no idea how big the universe really was or how long it had existed.

Punpun wondered how many adults would know how to comfort a young boy...

...who was fervently hoping that a meteor or a small planet (it didn't matter which) would crash into Earth and destroy it.

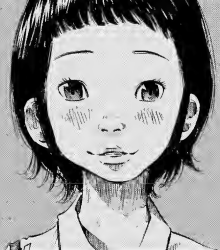
He'd been told not to come home, but he had nowhere else to go.

It was far too easy to imagine the indecent things his mom was currently doing with her "friend."



"DO YOU
WANT TO
GO WITH
ME?"

"MY SISTER
IS IN AN ART
SHOW NEXT
WEEKEND."



But none
of that
bothered
Punpun...

...in the
slightest...



...because just
thinking about
his impending
date that
weekend...

"You
wouldn't
by any
chance be
interested
in going
out with
me, would
you?"

But Kanie
will be
equally
excited
and push
on...

Punpun
won't be
able to
hide his
growing
excite-
ment.

"You
know, I
noticed
you on
the first
day of
school..."

On the
way back
from the
art show,
resting their
tired feet on
the closest
park bench,
Kanie will
suddenly
say...

...awakened
in him a
wonderful
story that
raced around
his synapses.

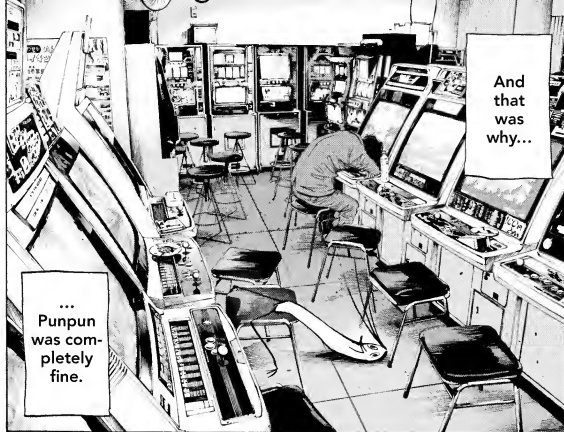


Just a few days into their relationship, Kanie's kissing monster will activate. She'll be on him relentlessly, even in public. Punpun will feel a little panicked in the beginning, but soon he'll be melting under her masterfully lewd tongue work. Oh my, what a dirty girl!



One night in her room, while her parents are out at a wedding, they'll finally be able to undress each other and share their body heat. They'll lose their minds rubbing against each other. Punpun will feel a heat on his thigh from deep within the nest of her pubic hair when suddenly she'll say, "Let's turn out the lights." For a second, Punpun will be disappointed that she's acting all coy, but he's a gentleman and will attempt insertion. But seeing her face all screwed up with pain, her body writhing, Punpun won't be able to keep from saying, "Sorry, maybe we should stop. I don't want to push you." Even though it's dark, Punpun will sense her expression gradually changing from anguish to joy as she whispers in his ear, "No, it's okay... I don't mind if it's you. Because..." She'll falter, then say, "Because I love you." Ahhh, Punpun won't be able to stop from holding her tight.



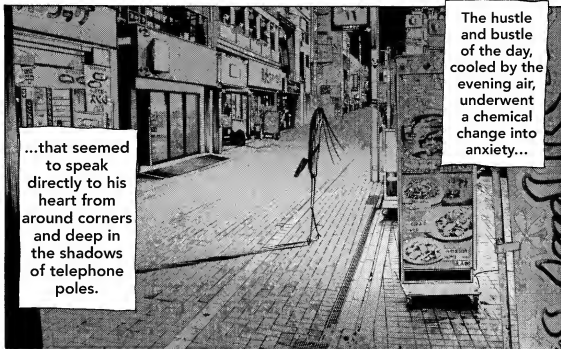




...to quiet
Punpun's
emotions.

...and
sufficiently
dark and
still...

The May
night was
chilly...





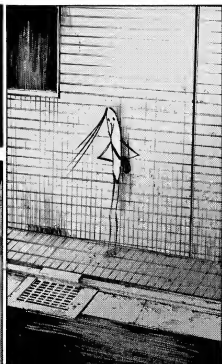
...caressed
him slowly
on the cheek
before
disappearing.

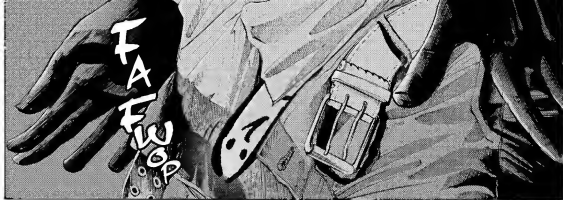
As if to
mock him,
the night
breeze...

...and
ended up
alone for
life...?

What if he
messed up
his date with
Kanie...

...restless. ...made Punpun's heart... ...the city at night... Some-
how...





"I'm
here."

"Someone
please
come find
me..."

Punpun
murmured
softly to
himself...



YOUR
DAD
DIED?

HUH?

BABY...



NO,
THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT.

I'M AS
BUMMED
ABOUT IT
AS ANY
AVERAGE
PERSON
COULD BE.

WHAT?

YOU
HAVE A
PROBLEM
WITH
THAT?



THEN
WHY
AREN'T
YOU WITH
YOUR
SON?



IT'S
NOT
LIKE AT
YOUR
HOUSE.

YOU
KNOW WE
AREN'T
CLOSE...

NO WAY,
DON'T BE
MEAN.



THERE'S
NO WAY
I CAN BE
ALONE ON
A NIGHT
LIKE THIS.





PICK
YOUR
MOMENT—
GOD!

W-
WHAT
...?

I TOLD
YOU I WAS
DOWN! SAY
SOMETHING
TO MAKE
ME FEEL
BETTER!

YOU'RE
LECTURING
ME, YOU
ASSHOLE?



I
WENT
TOO
FAR.

OH,
WHOA
...!

S-
SORRY.



DON'T
THINK JUST
BECAUSE
YOUR DICK'S A
LITTLE LONGER
THAN MOST
THAT YOU'RE
SOMETHING
SPECIAL!

YOU'RE
DEAD WRONG
IF YOU THINK
I'LL KEEP
ACTING LIKE A
CONVENIENT
SIDE PIECE!



THERE,
THERE,
THAT'S
A GOOD
GIRL.

SOB
...

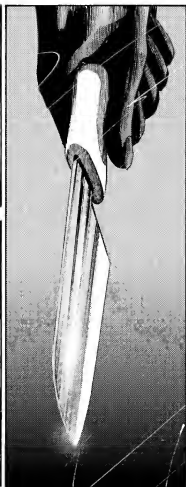
SOB
...

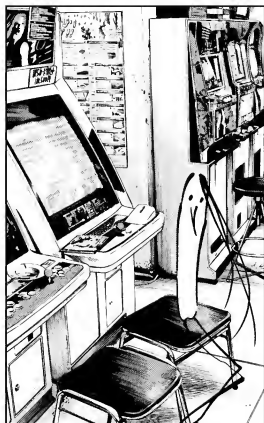
THAT
WAS
HARSH
...

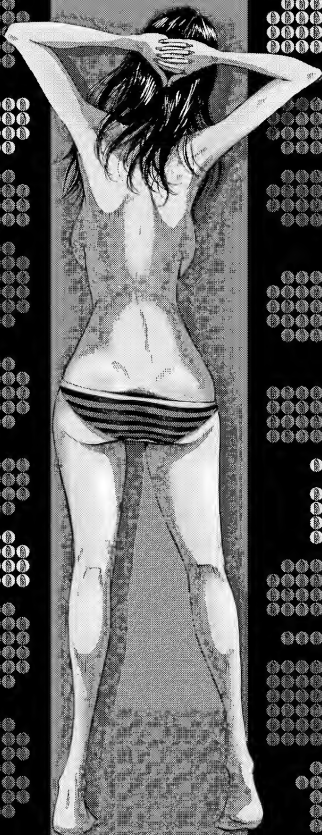
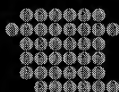
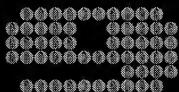
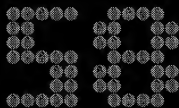
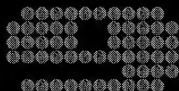
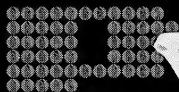






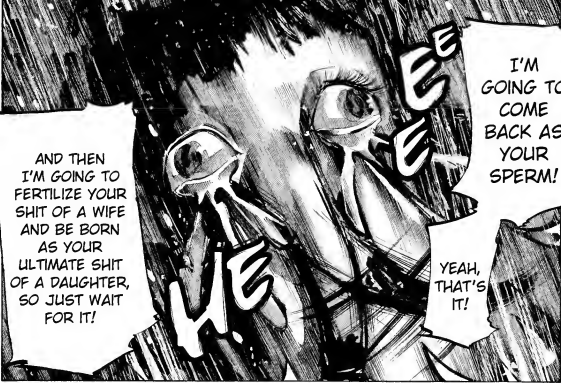












AND THEN
I'M GOING TO
FERTILIZE YOUR
SHIT OF A WIFE
AND BE BORN
AS YOUR
ULTIMATE SHIT
OF A DAUGHTER,
SO JUST WAIT
FOR IT!

I'M
GOING TO
COME
BACK AS
YOUR
SPERM!

YEAH,
THAT'S
IT!



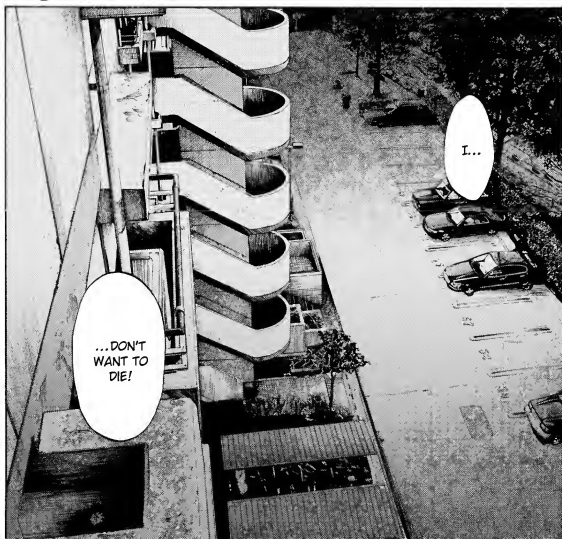
I'M
GOING TO
DESTROY
THAT SHIT
FROM THE
INSIDE
OUT!

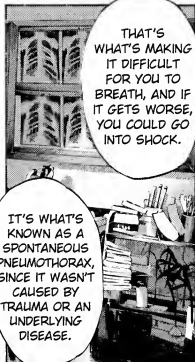
THAT LIFE
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
BUILDING...

HA
HA HA!
COUGH
COUGH!

...THAT
AVERAGE,
CONVEN-
TIONAL,
PEACEFUL
LIFE...





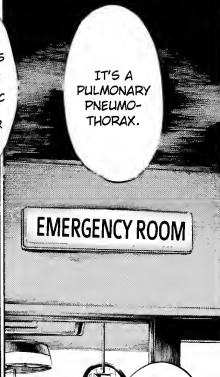


THAT'S WHAT'S MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO BREATHE, AND IF IT GETS WORSE, YOU COULD GO INTO SHOCK.

IT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS A SPONTANEOUS PNEUMOTHORAX, SINCE IT WASN'T CAUSED BY TRAUMA OR AN UNDERLYING DISEASE.



THERE'S A HOLE IN YOUR LUNG, WHICH IS ALLOWING AIR TO LEAK INTO YOUR THORACIC CAVITY AND IS CAUSING YOUR LUNG TO COLLAPSE.



IT'S A PULMONARY PNEUMOTHORAX.



NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...

SHE'S RESPONDING WELL TO TREATMENT, AND WE CAUGHT IT BEFORE IT BECAME SERIOUS.

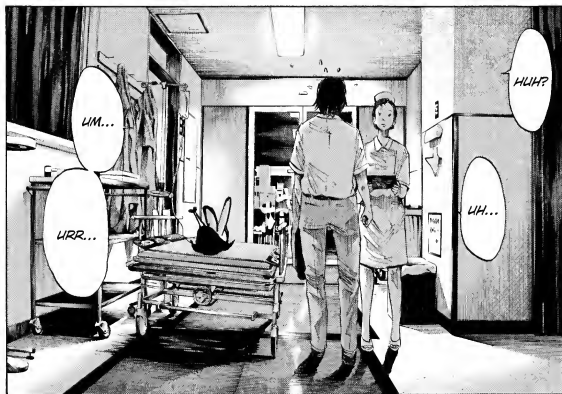
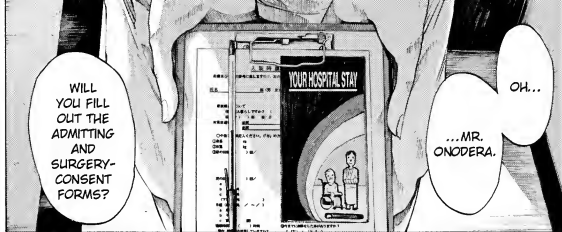
GENERALLY IT'S MORE COMMON IN THIN YOUNG MEN, BUT IT'S NOT UNHEARD OF IN WOMEN.

WE'VE PUT A TUBE INTO YOUR WIFE'S CHEST AND ARE SUCKING OUT THE AIR...

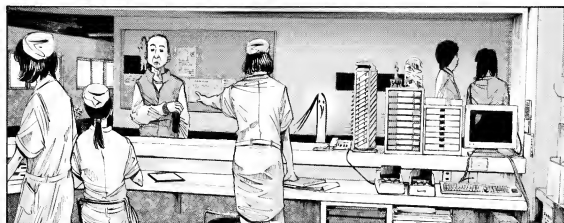


IT'S A SIMPLE OPERATION. SHE'LL BE OUT IN A WEEK.

BUT I WOULD RECOMMEND SURGERY TO PREVENT A REOCCURRENCE.





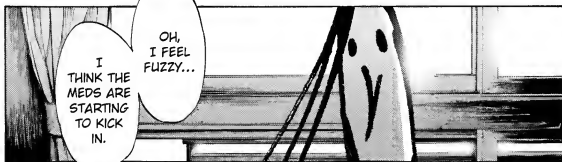




I
SAID A
LOT OF
THINGS
YESTER-
DAY.

I'M
SORRY.

YOU
KNOW
...



I
THINK THE
MEDS ARE
STARTING
TO KICK
IN.

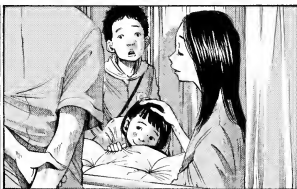
OH,
I FEEL
FUZZY...



SO YOU
DON'T NEED
TO VISIT. I
KNOW YOU
DON'T WANT
TO...

MIDORI
WILL COME
AND TAKE
CARE OF
ME.

MAKE
SURE YOU
GO TO
SCHOOL.



IF I SPEND
ANY MORE
TIME HERE,
I'LL START
THINKING
ABOUT
THINGS.

OH,
NO
...

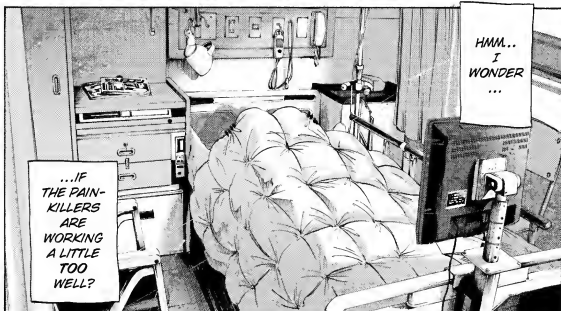


...
ALONE
RIGHT
NOW.

...SO...

...I
AM...

OH...



...IF
THE PAIN-
KILLERS
ARE
WORKING
A LITTLE
TOO
WELL?

HMM...
I
WONDER
...

...TO ASK
SOMEONE
FOR HELP.

BUT I'M
TOO
EMBAR-
RASSED...

I
HAVE
TO
PEE...



...COULD
BE LIFE
OR
DEATH?

WHO
KNEW THE
LENGTH
OF ONE
HALLWAY
...



HELP
ME!

DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE...

HEY!!



IDIOT,
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THAT
NOW.

I
WONDER IF
THE PEOPLE
WHO WORK
IN AN
OPTOMETRY
OFFICE ALL
HAVE BAD
VISION?



OH,
MAYBE I
OVERDID
IT A BIT
WITH
THE PAIN
MEDS.



HUH?

WHY
IS HE
HERE?

WAIT A
MINUTE...



WOW,
FOREIGNERS
ARE HUGE.

NEVER
MIND
THAT—
I HAVE
TO GO...

WAIT,
WHERE
AM I
GOING?

IF I DON'T
HURRY, MY
POT WILL
BOIL OVER.

I
NEED TO
HURRY...

NEVER
MIND
THAT...

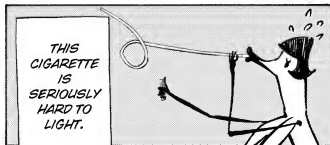


OH,
PHEW...

IT WAS
JUST MY
IMAGINA-
TION.



WAIT,
DIDN'T I
SELL THE
HOUSE?



THIS
CIGARETTE
IS
SERIOUSLY
HARD TO
LIGHT.

CALM
DOWN,
CALM
DOWN...

I'M
SO
CON-
FUSED...

WAIT A
MINUTE
...

OKAY,
I'LL
HAVE A
CIGA-
RETTE.

OH NO,
MIDORI'S
GOING TO
YELL AT
ME AGAIN.

NO
SMOKING
EXCEPT FOR
DESIGNATED
AREAS...

AREN'T
I IN THE
HOSPITAL?

IS THAT
WHAT A
BLIMP
LOOKS
LIKE?



BUT...



IT'S A
BLIMP!

LOOK,
LOOK,
SIS...

OH, THANK
GOODNESS!
SHE'S NOT
MAD!

ONE OF
THESE
DAYS, WE
SHOULD
ALL GO
AROUND
THE
WORLD...

...IN
ONE OF
THOSE.

...SUN
AND
WIND.

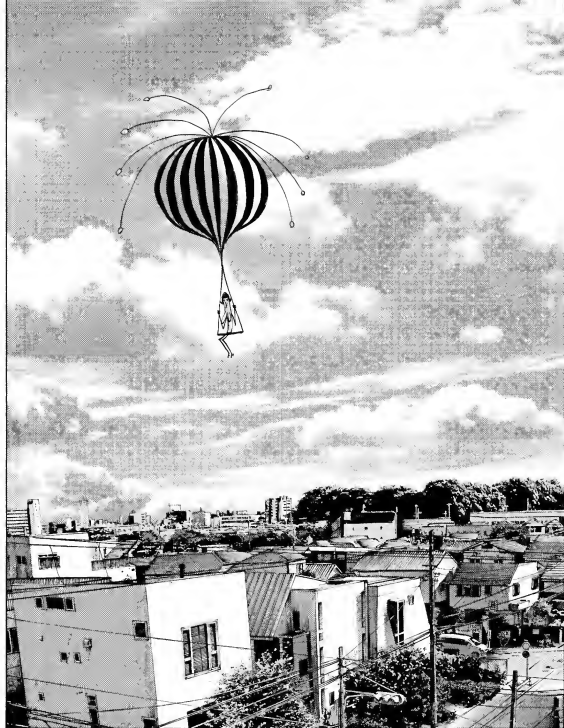
...SEA...

...SKY...

THERE'S
LOTS OF...

WE'LL
GO...

WHY CAN'T
I GET
ALONG WITH
EVERYONE?



MIND YOUR

IT
WILL

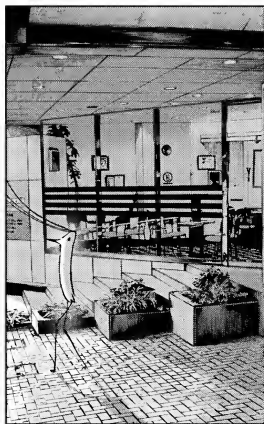
I'M
SURE

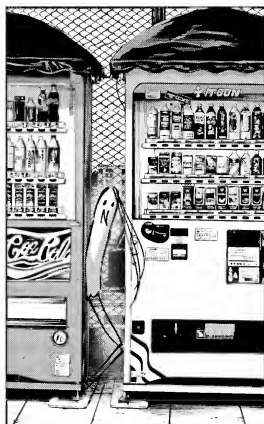
AND
FEEL

FILL

WITH
NOTHING

AMAZING.





...
MA'AM!

...
MA'AM
...



CALL ME
"MISS."

"MA'AM"?!
"

SOME-
BODY!



GET A
NURSE!



OH,
THANK
GOOD-
NESS.

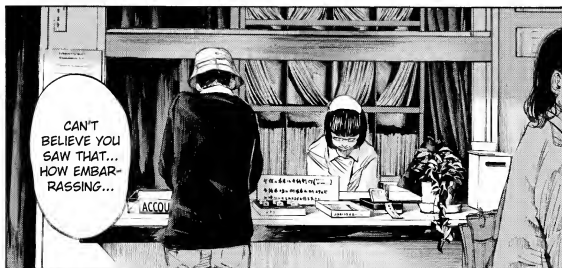
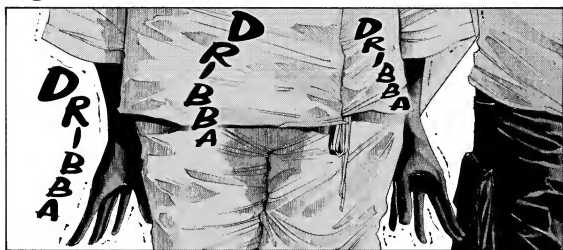
DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



MRS.
ONODERA
...

I
TOLD
YOU TO
STAY IN
BED.

...
WHAT
HAP-
PENED
?!





OH NO,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.

NO
ONE
WILL
MARRY
ME
NOW...

WELL,
ACTUALLY,
I'M
ALREADY
DIVORCED.

WHEN I WAS
HOSPITALIZED,
I DIDN'T
KNOW **WHAT**
WAS GOING
ON. I WAS
A HUGE PAIN
FOR THE
NURSES.



HOW...

...DID
YOU GET
HURT?



FOR A
SECOND, I
SERIOUSLY
THOUGHT,
"I'M GOING
TO DIE."

I
ATE IT
BIG-
TIME.



OH,
HEH
HEH
HEH.

I HIT
A CAR
WITH MY
BIKE ON
THE WAY
HOME
FROM
SCHOOL.



SO
YOU'RE
LUCKY
TO GET
OFF SO
LIGHTLY.

HEE
HEE...



I
THINK I'LL
HAVE TO
QUIT THE
SOCCER
TEAM...

NO,
YOU'RE
RIGHT...

...BUT IT'S
MADE ME
DECIDE
IT'S TIME
TO START
SERIOUSLY
STUDYING.



OH...

WHAT
IS IT?

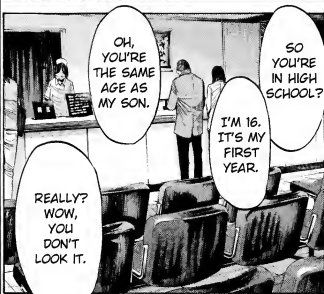


YOU
SUCK AT
FLAT-
TERY.

HMMM
...

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT.

DON'T
WORRY.

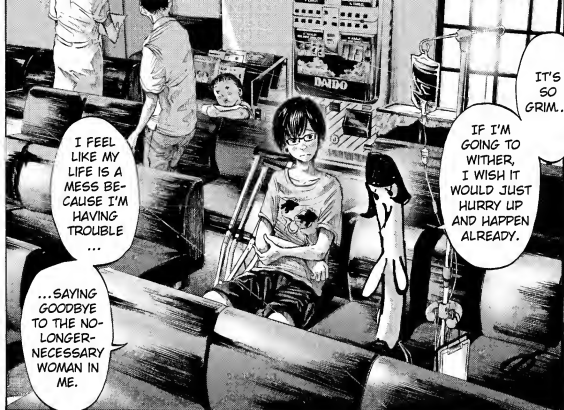


OH,
YOU'RE
THE SAME
AGE AS
MY SON.

SO
YOU'RE
IN HIGH
SCHOOL?

I'M 16.
IT'S MY
FIRST
YEAR.

REALLY?
WOW,
YOU
DON'T
LOOK IT.



I FEEL
LIKE MY
LIFE IS A
MESS BE-
CAUSE I'M
HAVING
TROUBLE
...

...SAYING
GOODBYE
TO THE NO-
LONGER-
NECESSARY
WOMAN IN
ME.

IT'S
SO
GRIM...

IF I'M
GOING TO
WITHER,
I WISH IT
WOULD JUST
HURRY UP
AND HAPPEN
ALREADY.



UM...

I'M
HAPPY TO
LISTEN IF
YOU WANT
TO TALK.



OH,
WHAT AM
I EVEN
SAYING?

YOU
DON'T WANT
TO HEAR
THE LIFE
STORY OF
A MIDDLE-
AGED
WOMAN,
DO YOU?



NO...

...THAT'S
OKAY. I'D
BETTER
GET BACK
TO MY
ROOM.

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.
JUST
FORGET
EVERY-
THING I
SAID.





...SPARKLED.

EVEN
THOUGH WE
WERE ONLY
TALKING,
EVERY
WORD...

SO
DIFFERENT
FROM
PUNPUN...

HMM,
SIXTEEN?

YOU IDIOT,
WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING?

I WONDER
IF HE HAS A
GIRLFRIEND?

I
WANT TO
MASTUR-
BATE.

SIGH
...

AND I'LL
STOP BEING
SO PICKY
ABOUT
WHAT JOBS
I GO
FOR.

I'LL
STOP DRINK-
ING...

I
NEED
TO GET
BACK
TO
WORK.

IT'S
NOT LIKE
I'M NOT
THINKING
ABOUT
IT...

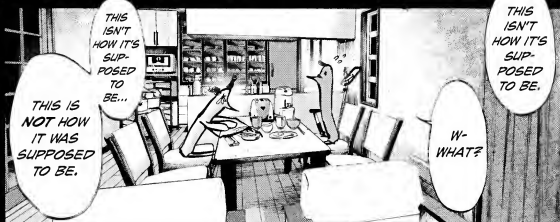


I'M
AFRAID
TO GO
BACK OUT
THERE...

BUT
YOU
KNOW...

IF I
GET BACK
ON THAT
HORSE,
MAYBE I'LL
JUST GET
CHEWED UP
AGAIN.

... TEN
YEARS AGO,
I WAS
BUSTING MY
ASS LIKE
MY LIFE
DEPENDED
ON IT.



THIS
ISN'T
HOW IT'S
SUP-
POSED
TO BE...

THIS IS
NOT HOW
IT WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE.

THIS
ISN'T
HOW IT'S
SUP-
POSED
TO BE.

W-
WHAT?



YOU
WANTED TO
BANG MORE
MEN, WHILE
YOU'RE AT
IT?



I
WANTED
TO PLAY
MORE.



YOU'RE
JUST
SPECU-
LATING-
DON'T BE
STUPID.

STOP
IT...



I
WANTED
TO SHOP
MORE.



YOU
KNOW
...

...LET'S
SPLIT
UP.

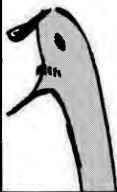
I'LL
TAKE
PUNPUN.



UM,
COULD
I HAVE
ANOTHER
GLASS
OF SAKE?
JUST ONE
MORE.

I'M
NOT
THINKING
STRAIGHT
...

YEAH
...



DO YOU
REALLY
THINK THE
TWO OF
YOU CAN
MAKE IT
ON YOUR
OWN?

YOU SAID
YOU
DIDN'T
EVEN
WANT
KIDS...



CAN YOU
RAISE HIM
ON YOUR
OWN AND
WORK
FULL-
TIME?

YOU
...



YOU
...!

HOW
SELFISH
CAN YOU
BE?!



...
BUT
...

...AT
LEAST IF
I'M BY
MYSELF, I
WON'T BE
LONELY.

I
DON'T
KNOW
...

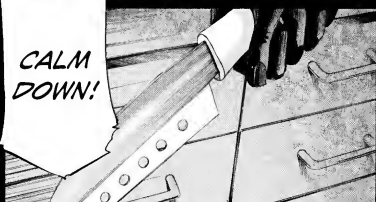


HEY
HEY
HEY!

YOU
...

HEY
...

WAIT
...



CALM
DOWN!



HEY
...



ARE
...

... YOU
CRAZY
?!



I'M
NOT
GOING
TO
STAB
YOU.

SHUT
UP.



... THEN
MYSELF.

I'M
GOING
TO KILL
PUNPUN
...



ARR
...

ARR!

Urr
Urr
Urr
Urr
Urr
Urr
Urrr!

THEN
KILL
ME!

ARR,
ARR
...

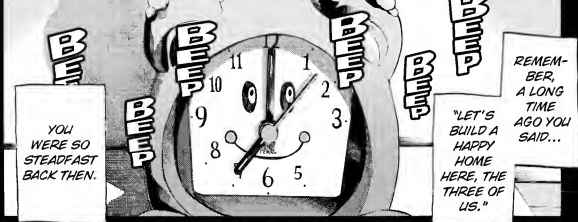
KILL
ME,
RIGHT
HERE,
RIGHT
NOW!

...ARR
ARR ARR
ARR ARR
ARR
ARRGH!

HURRY
UP AND
FIGURE
IT OUT...

THIS
ISN'T
WHAT I
WANTED.

...
PAPA.

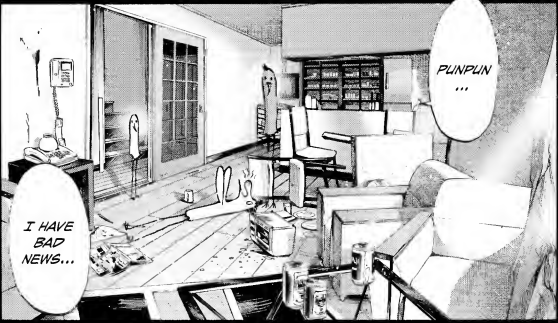




TELL
ME, "IT
WILL BE
OKAY."



TELL
ME, "I'M
SORRY."



I HAVE
BAD
NEWS...

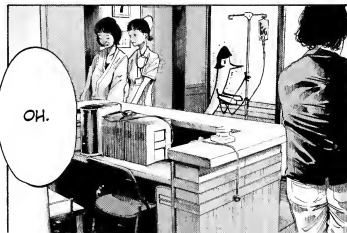
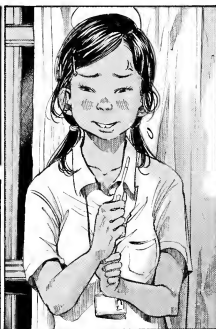
PUNPUN
...



TELL
ME...

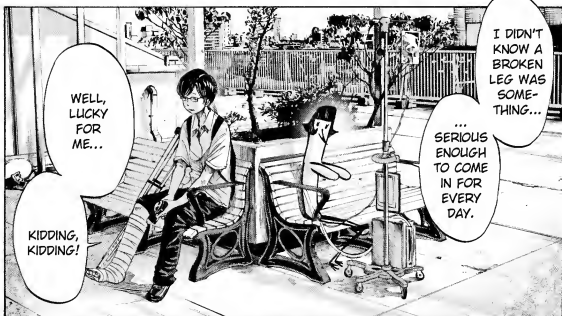
"I LOVE
YOU."

THERE
WAS A
BURGLAR.





MS.
ONODERA!



WELL,
LUCKY
FOR
ME...

KIDDING,
KIDDING!

I DIDN'T
KNOW A
BROKEN
LEG WAS
SOME-
THING...

...
SERIOUS
ENOUGH
TO COME
IN FOR
EVERY
DAY.



...I'M NOT
REALLY HERE
TO GET IT
LOOKED AT.

WELL,
LIM...



REMEMBER
YESTERDAY
I TOLD YOU
I GOT HURT
WHEN I HIT
A CAR ON
MY BIKE?



HMM?



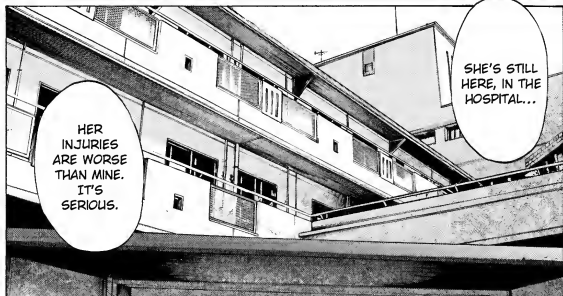
...IN
HEARING A
KID'S LIFE
STORY?

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
INTEREST
...



MY
GIRL-
FRIEND
WAS ON
THE BACK
OF MY
BIKE.

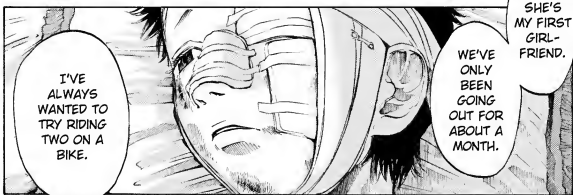
ACTU-
ALLY,
THERE
WERE
TWO OF
US.



HER
INJURIES
ARE WORSE
THAN MINE.
IT'S
SERIOUS.

SHE'S STILL
HERE, IN THE
HOSPITAL...





I'VE
ALWAYS
WANTED TO
TRY RIDING
TWO ON A
BIKE.

WE'VE
ONLY
BEEN
GOING
OUT FOR
ABOUT A
MONTH.

SHE'S
MY FIRST
GIRL-
FRIEND.



...BUT I
WANTED TO
SHOW OFF,
SO I WENT
REALLY
FAST.

SHE TRIED
TO GET ME
TO STOP
BECAUSE
SHE SAID IT
WAS DAN-
GEROUS...



WHEN I
CAME TO,
I WAS
LYING
ON THE
GROUND...

...AND I
COULD HEAR
HER CRYING
SOMEWHERE
FAR AWAY
FROM ME.



...A CAR
TURNED
OFF A SIDE
STREET, AND
I HAD A
SECOND TO
THINK, "OH
CRAP."

AND
THEN...



HOW YOU
MET YOUR
HUSBAND
...

YOU WERE
TRAVELING
IN ITALY AND
SNUCK INTO
A SWINGERS'
PARTY?

LET'S
NOT TALK
ABOUT IT
ANYMORE.

TELL ME
MORE ABOUT
WHAT YOU
WERE TALK-
ING ABOUT
YESTERDAY.



DON'T
CHANGE
THE
SUBJECT.

STOP
THAT.



YOU
DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO HANG
AROUND OUT
HERE.

GO
APOLOGIZE
TO HER.



...NO
APOLOGY
COULD
BE GOOD
ENOUGH
FOR HER TO
FORGIVE
ME.

BUT...

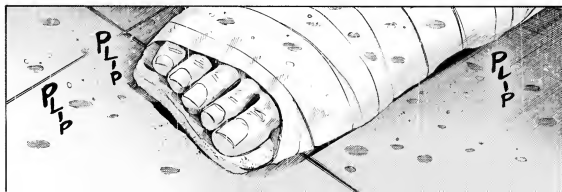


I'M
NOT
LIKE
THAT.

MAYBE
YOU'RE
THINKING,
"WHY ME?"

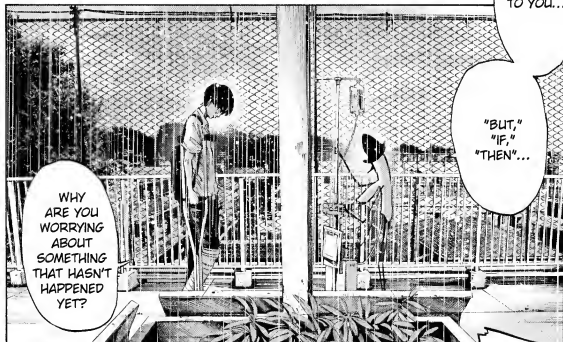
YOU THINK
YOU'RE BEING
SENSITIVE BY
LEAVING HER
ALONE, BUT
MAYBE YOU'RE
JUST TRYING
TO PROTECT
YOURSELF.

IS HER
FORGIVING
YOU THE
IMPORTANT
THING
HERE?





LISTEN
TO YOU...



WHY
ARE YOU
WORRYING
ABOUT
SOMETHING
THAT HASN'T
HAPPENED
YET?

"BUT,"
"IF,"
"THEN"...



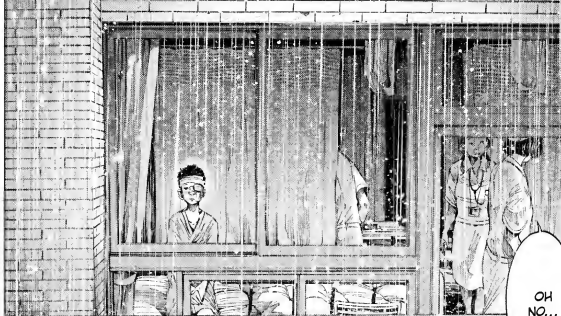
NOW
CONNECTS
TO THE
FUTURE.

WHAT'S
IMPOR-
TANT IS
NOW.



MS.
ONODERA
...





OH
NO...

DAMMIT,
WILL YOU
ALL GO
LOOK FOR
HER?

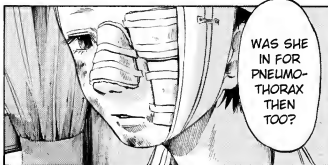
SHE
HASN'T
CHANGED
A BIT.

MS.
ONODERA
IS GONE
AGAIN.



WAS SHE
IN FOR
PNEUMO-
THORAX
THEN
TOO?

OH,
HAS MS.
ONODERA
BEEN HERE
BEFORE?



YEAH,
SHE JUMPED
OFF THE FIRE
ESCAPE
AND HAD
EVERYONE IN
A PANIC.

...
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE.

NO,
NO...



...IT'S
JUST
A BOY
THING.

SO I
GUESS...



SHINTARO
HAD THE
SAME LOOK
IN HIS EYES
AS PUNPLIN.



IT'S
POURING—
LET ME GET
UNDER YOUR
UMBRELLA.

GREAT
TIMING,
REALLY
GREAT!

WHOA,
ONOTTI...

...MY EX-
HUSBAND
BEAT ME...

IT'S
JUST
THAT
...

I'M
SORRY
...





LOOKING
BACK,
IT FEELS
LIKE AN
ACCIDENT...

...BUT
ALSO LIKE
AN INEVITA-
BILITY.

WHATEVER
THE
REASON...

...ALL I
HAVE LEFT
IS NOW.



IF YOU
LET TIME
PUSH YOU
ALONG...

...THERE
WILL BE SO
MANY THINGS
YOU'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO GET
BACK.



THE
TRUTH
IS...

...I
STILL
LOVE
HIM.

I
WISH MY
HUSBAND
HAD SAID
THOSE
THINGS
TO ME.

"IT
WILL BE
OKAY," "I'M
SORRY"
AND "I
LOVE
YOU"...



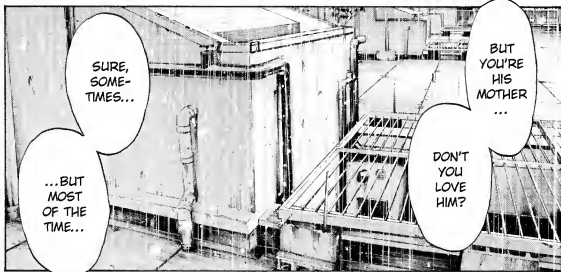
NOT
AT
ALL...

WE
REALLY
DON'T
GET
ALONG.

DON'T
YOU TALK
ABOUT THIS
STUFF WITH
YOUR SON?

I
HAVE MY
PRIDE.

BUT
WE'LL
NEVER
GET BACK
TOGETHER
...



SURE,
SOME-
TIMES...

...BUT
MOST
OF THE
TIME...

BUT
YOU'RE
HIS
MOTHER
...

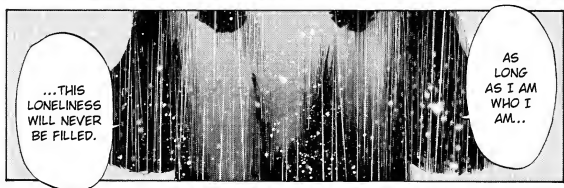
DON'T
YOU
LOVE
HIM?



...IT'S LIKE HE
EMBODIES ALL
OUR NEGATIVE
ASPECTS, AND
I JUST REALLY
DISLIKE HIM.

HE'S A
PART OF
ME AND MY
HUSBAND,
BUT...

...I
LOATHE
HIM.





YEAH,
TOTALLY.

HEY,
AREN'T
THOSE
GIRLS FROM
OUR CLASS?



IT'S
MIMURA
...

HEY, HEY,
HEY,
CUTIES!

IT'S
FRIDAY!
LET'S ALL
ROLL ON
DOWN FOR
SOME
KARAOKE!

HEY, PEOPLE
ARE SAYING
YOU'RE JUST
A POSER AND
A VIRGIN.



NOT TRUE.
WANT TO
SEE MY
GLISTENING
TROUSER
UZI?

THAT'S
JUST
GROSS.
LET'S GO.



I DIDN'T
GO TO THE
FUNERAL,
AND NO
ONE SAID
A WORD
ABOUT IT.

MY
FATHER AND
BROTHER
HAVE ALWAYS
THOUGHT I
WAS A COLD
FISH.

MY
MOTHER DIED
OF BREAST
CANCER WHILE
I WAS
TRAVELING
OVERSEAS.

WE NEVER
GOT ALONG,
BUT MY LACK
OF GRIEF
WAS SUCH AN
ANTICLIMAX.



I DIDN'T
KNOW
A THING
ABOUT THE
WORLD.

BACK THEN,
I THOUGHT
THAT MEANT
FREEDOM.

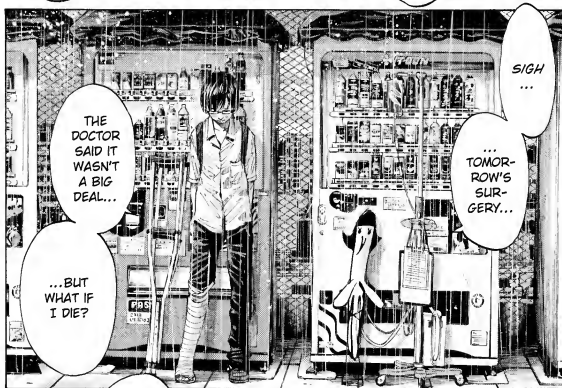


I
FIGURED
EVEN IF I
COULD,
I'D BE
INSIGNIFI-
CANT...

MAYBE I WAS
WAITING FOR
SOMEONE ELSE
TO FIND ME.

NOW IT'S
CALLED
"FINDING
YOUR-
SELF"...

...BUT I
WASN'T
TRYING
TO FIND
MYSELF.





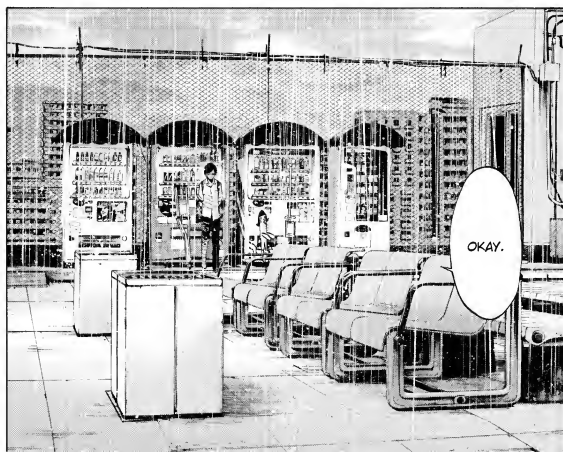
HOW
INCREDIBLY
SAD.

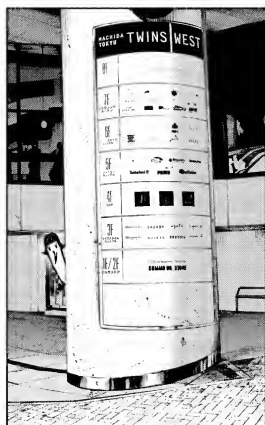
...WHAT IF
THE POINT OF
MY LIFE IS TO
RUN AWAY FROM
MOMENTARY
ANXIETY AND
LONELINESS...?

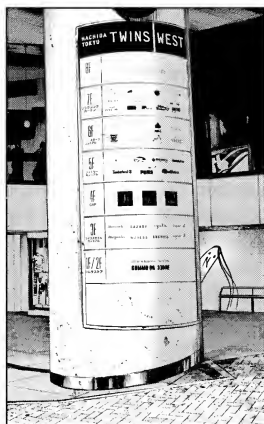
...LIKE
SHELTER-
ING HERE
FROM THE
RAIN...

WHAT
IF...

HA
HA...









SERIOUSLY,
HER BLOOD
PRESSURE
KEEPS
DROPPING,
AND IT'S
HILARIOUS.

OH
SHIT!

I JUST
FUCKED
UP THIS
INCISION.

UH,
DOCTOR,
SHE'S
BLEEDING
OUT
HERE.

WHOA,
THERE'S
SOME
WEIRD
FLUID
IN HERE.
WHAT IS
THAT?



WAIT,
IS SHE
AWAKE?

DUCT-
TAPE HER
EYES
SHUT.

ON AN
ORGAN?

WELL,
PUT A
BAND-AID
ON IT!
IT'LL GET
BETTER
EVENTU-
ALLY.



AHH,
I'M
BORED
OF SUR-
GERY
...

I WANT
TO GO
HOME
AND PLAY
MY PLAY-
STATION.

HEY, GUYS,
TAKE THIS
SERIOUSLY.

JUST WAIT NO! HEY
WAIT ...
A MINUTE.

HEY,
WHO DO
YOU WANT
TO INVITE
TO THE
PARTY
NEXT
WEEK?



GASP!

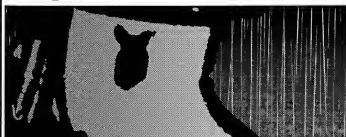


LIM
...

...ARE
YOU
OKAY?

JUST A
DREAM.







THE
SURGEON
TOLD
ME...

...I'LL
PROBABLY
HAVE SCARS
FROM THE
STITCHES
THOUGH.

IT'S
NOT
A BIG
DEAL...

I'M
GETTING
OUT
SOON.

...YOU'LL HAVE
SOMEONE
SPECIAL TO BE
CONCERNED
ABOUT THEM.

...THAT
EVEN IF
YOU HAVE
SCARS...

SOMEHOW
IT PISSES
ME OFF...



MEDICAL
SCIENCE HAS
MADE SO MUCH
PROGRESS
LATELY. I'M
SURE YOU'LL
HAVE A
COMPLETE
RECOVERY.

I'M
SURE
YOU'LL
BE FINE.

I DON'T
REALLY HAVE
A REASON TO
DIE, SO I'M
JUST HANGING
AROUND OUT
OF HABIT.

I LOST
MY
REASON
FOR
LIVING
YEARS
AGO...

NO ONE
NEEDS
ME...

AND
ME...



BUT IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
ANYMORE...

IT WAS
JUST BAD
LUCK.

I...

...HOPE
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

EVERYONE
CAN JUST
DIE!

ADULTS,
CHILDREN,
MEN AND
WOMEN...
ME...

IF YOU
CAN'T
COPE,
JUST
DIE!

EVERYONE
IS SO
FUCKING
DEPRESS-
ING...

WHAT
IS
THIS...?

WHAT...



THAT...

...THAT'S
NOT...

UM...

YOU
KNOW.

...AND I
HOPE I
CAN BE
A LITTLE
HAPPIER
THAN I AM
NOW.

I
HOPE ALL
PEOPLE
ON EARTH
CAN BE
HAPPY...

OH GOD, I
PROMISE
IT WAS A
LIE, SO
PLEASE
DON'T
THROW ME
INTO HELL!

I
DIDN'T
MEAN
IT...

I
LIED...



DON'T LET
THIS GET
YOU DOWN...

THERE'S SO
MUCH FUN
WAITING FOR
YOU WHEN YOU
GROW UP.

...ARE
COMPLETELY
MEANING-
LESS...

THESE
INSINCERE
WORDS...

WHAT THE
HELL AM I
SAYING?

OH...

...THANK
YOU.

OH.

...YOU
GET
BETTER
SOON
TOO.

I
HOPE...

...WITH
KIND
ONES.

SHE'S
REPAID
MY
IDIOTIC
WORDS...

...THERE OH...
IT IS...

I'M
SURE
SOMETHING
WONDER-
FUL WILL
HAPPEN...

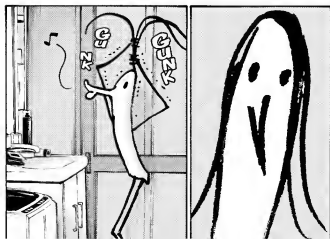
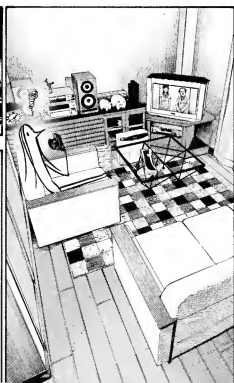
...AFTER
YOUR
OPERATION
TOMORROW.

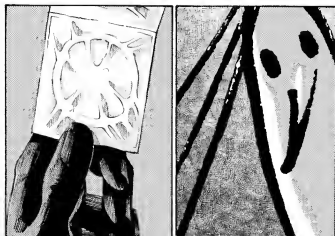
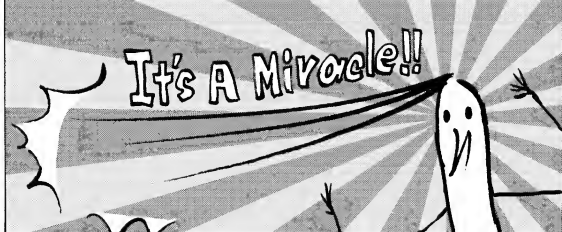
I DON'T
WANT YOUR
SYMPATHY!

STOP
IT.

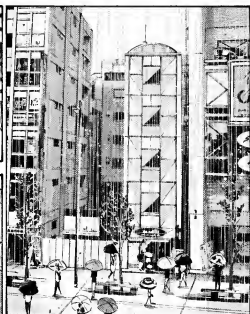


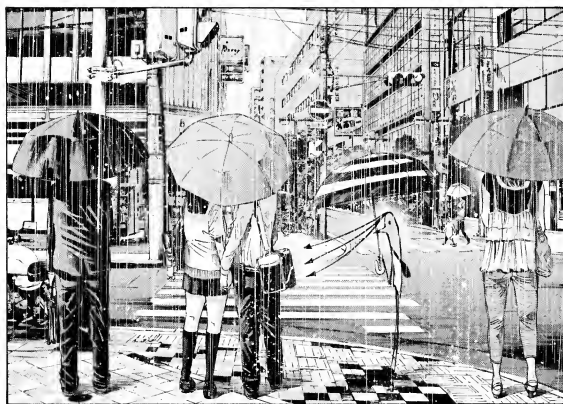
...IT'S BUT...
NICE.



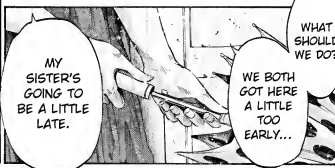


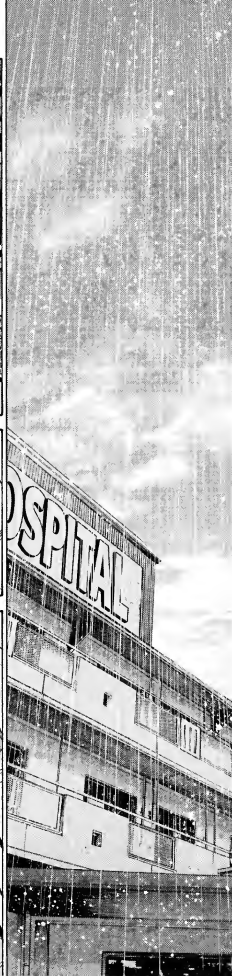
Ahh! Oh!
Oh Yeah!













I'M SORRY,
I JUST
ASSUMED HE
WAS COMING
ON HIS OWN,
SO I DIDN'T
GET IN TOUCH
WITH HIM.



MIDORI
...

...
WHERE'S
PUNPUN?



PLEASE
TAKE GOOD
CARE OF MY
SISTER-IN-
LAW.

UM...



I
WAS
JUST
ASKING.

OH...
...
THAT'S
OKAY.



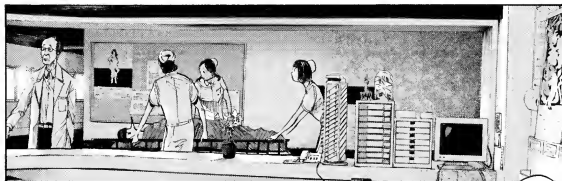
HEY...

...
NURSE.



...A BOY WHO
I'M REALLY
INTERESTED IN
RIGHT NOW.

THERE'S
...



OKAY
...

...WHEN THIS
OPERATION'S
OVER, I WANT
TO TELL HIM
HOW I FEEL.

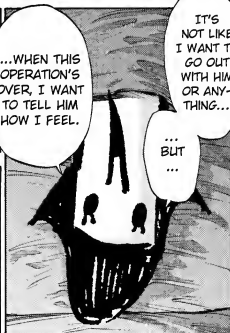
IT'S
NOT LIKE
I WANT TO
GO OUT
WITH HIM
OR ANY-
THING...

...
BUT
...



...I'VE BEEN
PROTECTING
MYSELF BY
PROVOKING
OTHER
PEOPLE.

LOOKING
BACK ON
THE LAST
COUPLE OF
YEARS...





NO...

...THIS HAS
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
MEN AND
WOMEN...



...AND
YOU
BECOME
A BIT
KINDER
YOUR-
SELF.

YOU
BECOME
MORE
SENSITIVE
TO THE
KINDNESS
OF
OTHERS
...

LOVE IS
STRANGE
...



...NEVER
FORGET
WHAT LETS
YOU LOVE.

...BE-
TRAYED
AND
HURT...

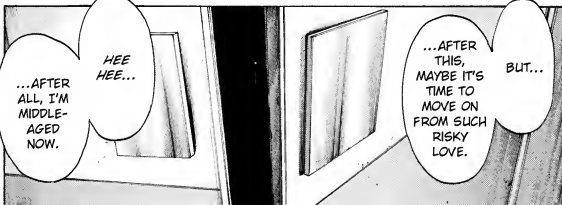
EVEN
IF
YOU'VE
BEEN
...



...ONE DAY
ALL THE
SCARS
WILL JUST
DISAPPEAR.

...AND
RECEIVING
LOTS OF
KINDNESS...

BY
LOVING
LOTS OF
PEOPLE...

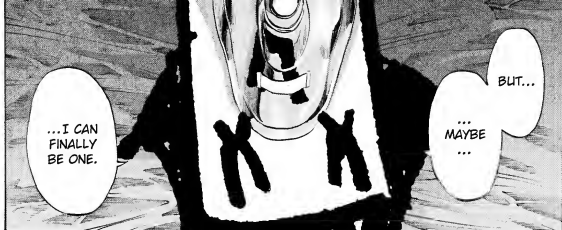


...AFTER
ALL, I'M
MIDDLE-
AGED
NOW.

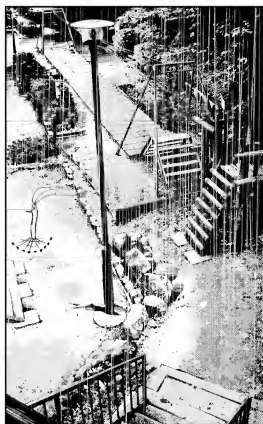
HEE
HEE...

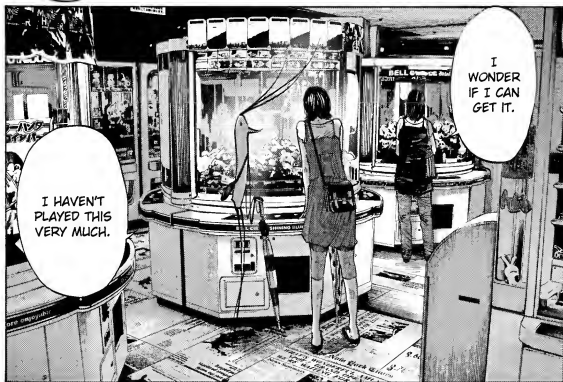
...AFTER
THIS,
MAYBE IT'S
TIME TO
MOVE ON
FROM SUCH
RISKY
LOVE.

BUT...













Today,
Punpun
was...



WHAT?

...to
make
this the
perfect
date.

...working
super
hard...



ACTUALLY,
I'LL COVER
EVERYTHING
ELSE, SINCE
YOU PAID
FOR THE
ARCADE.

...I CAN
PAY FOR
MYSELF.

NO,
NO...



NO,
NO.

NO,



YOU
KNOW...

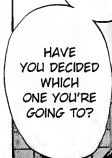
...IT'S ONLY
BEEN TWO
MONTHS SINCE
WE STARTED
HIGH SCHOOL,
BUT IT'S
GOING BY SO
QUICKLY.

MIDTERMS
JUST
ENDED, AND
MY HEAD'S
ALREADY
FULL OF
FINALS!

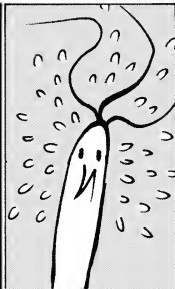
I'LL
PAY YOU
BACK
ANOTHER
TIME.

ERRM...





"What do you like to do on your days off?" Punpun parried with an original topic. He's on fire!





THERE ARE LOTS OF PLACES IN THE WORLD WHERE PEOPLE ARE POOR AND LACK VITAL SERVICES.

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS...

I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE BORN IN AN AFFLUENT COUNTRY LIKE JAPAN, SO I WANT TO TRY AND HELP.

...BUT I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO IT.



COMMUNICATION IS SO IMPORTANT WHEN YOU'RE WORKING WITH PEOPLE, DON'T YOU THINK?

SO I'M TEACHING MYSELF ENGLISH.

"Watch TV, play video games." ...

After much thought ...

...was all he could come up with.



SO HOW ABOUT YOU, ONODERA ...

Punpun had no reply for such an unexpectedly serious answer.

...WHAT DO YOU DO?



"...without
an ounce of
principles!"

"That makes
me look
unbelievably
lowbrow..."





YOU'RE
REALLY
NICE,
ONO-
DERA.



I
APPRECI-
ATE YOUR
CONCERN,
BUT...



NO...

...NEVER
MIND.



YOUR
BAG IS
GOING
TO GET
SOAKED.

GET ALL
THE WAY
UNDER
HERE.



I KIND
OF GET
MIMURA...

...BUT I
FIND YOU
HARD TO
READ,
ONODERA.

I ONLY
HAVE
SISTERS,
SO I DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND
BOYS.

SORRY,
I'M
HAVING
TROUBLE
SAYING
WHAT I
MEAN.

...and
unworthy.

...guilty...

They
weren't really
connecting,
which was a
little irritating
and was making
him feel...

Punpun
felt the
same
about
her.



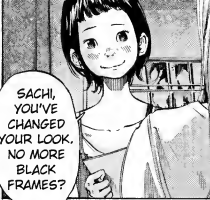
He was
trying so
hard...

...but he
was just
spinning
his wheels.
It was a
strange
feeling.

It was such a
fierce stiffy that
Punpun decided
to call it an **ultra
hard-on**.

Plus, he was
worried that Kanie
would notice the
raging boner he'd
been sporting for
the last couple of
hours.





SACHI,
YOU'VE
CHANGED
YOUR LOOK.
NO MORE
BLACK
FRAMES?



I
HEARD
YOU GOT
INTO HIGH
SCHOOL!
TOO...

HEY,
AZUSA,
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.

GOOD
FOR YOU,
SMARTY.



HUH?



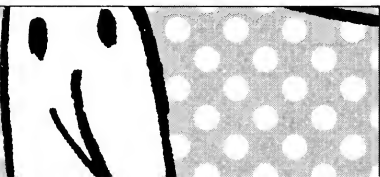
I
DON'T NEED
TO HEAR
THAT FROM
A SLUTTY
CYBORG LIKE
YOU.

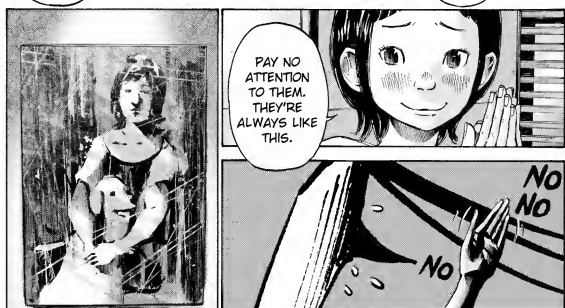
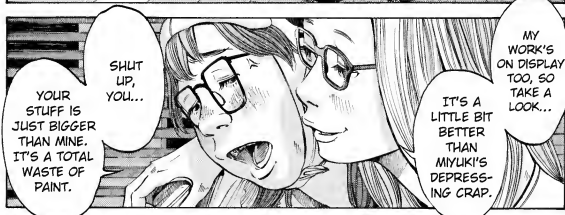
HEY,
HEY,
WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO DO
NOW?!

LOOKS
LIKE YOUR
LITTLE SISTER
LOST HER
VIRGINITY
FIRST.

UM...

...WE'RE
JUST FRIENDS
FROM SCHOOL—
DON'T GET
AHEAD OF
YOUR-
SELVES.







I
REALLY
LOVE
YOUR
USE OF
COLOR.

IT
WAS DAD
LAST YEAR,
SO MAYBE
ME NEXT
YEAR?



OH, IT'S
MOM'S
TURN.

...it was
hard for
Punpun to
describe
how he felt
about the
painting.

Truthfully...



...IT
REAFFIRMS
FOR ME
THAT
FAMILY...

...IS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING.

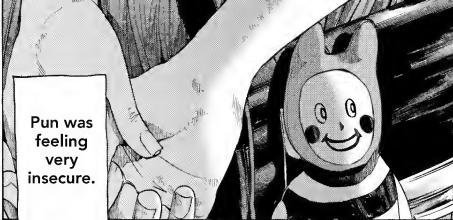
WHEN
I LOOK
AT YOUR
PAINTINGS
...

Punpun
didn't
know
anymore.

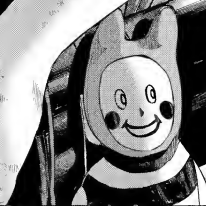
If he
said that,
would
it make
things all
right?

"Families
are the
best,
baby-
baby!
☆"

"That's
exactly
how I
feel!



Pun was
feeling
very
insecure.



"I wonder
if Kanie is
having a
good time
with me?"



He was
losing
confi-
dence.



"What
do I like
about
Kanie...?"

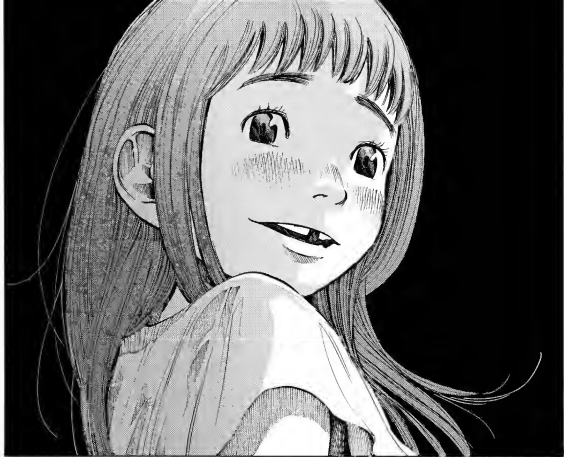
...made
an image
pop into
Punpun's
head...

Thinking
about
those
things...



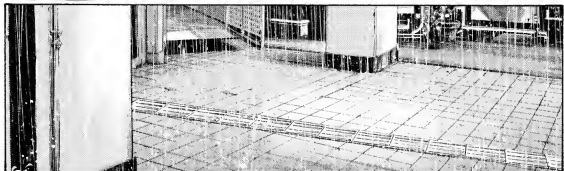
"...when
you're
falling in
love?"

"Is this
how
you're
supposed
to feel..."



...from
back
then.

...of
Aiko...

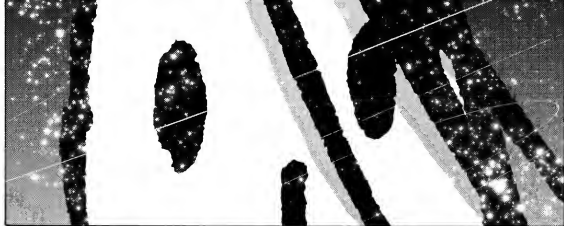


Having
thoughts
like that
made him
despicable,
Punpun
decided.

"...one
more
time."

"I just
want to
see her..."





MILKY WAY
SACHI NANJO



...he'd
seen that
sky
before.

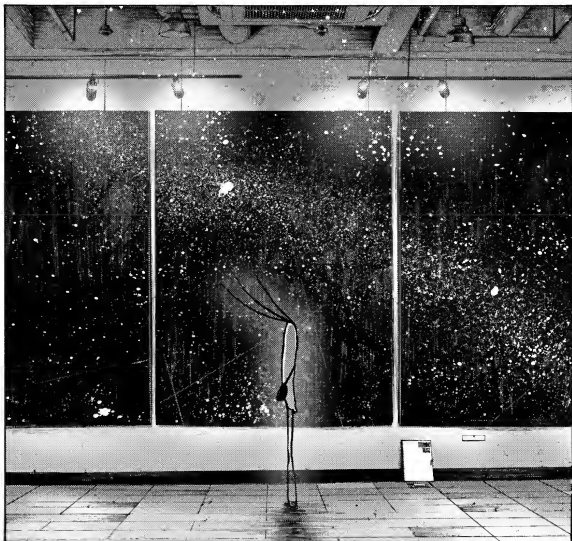
Punpun
felt
sure...



。

C
h
a
p
t
e
r

6
3

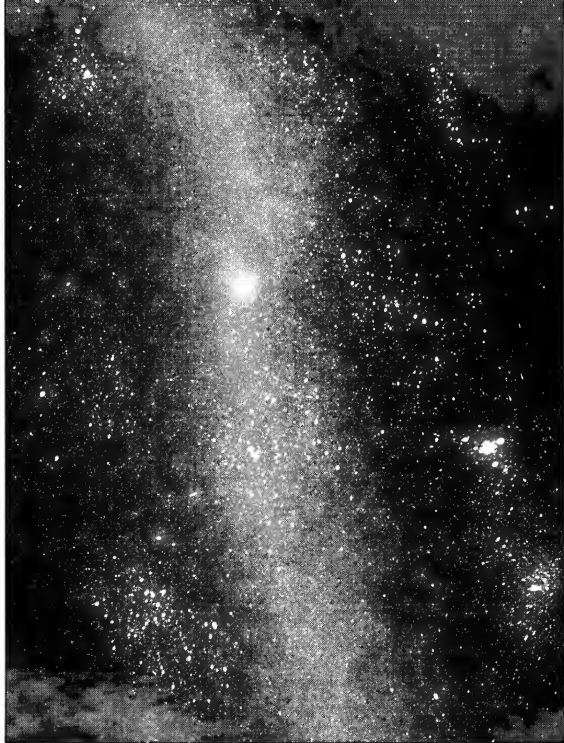


The
painting
looked just
like that.

That big,
big night
sky full of
stars...

...on the
way home
from
exploring
the miso
factory with
his friends.

It was
when he
was in
elementary
school...



"...and
is still
sparkling."

"...hasn't
changed
since
then...

"I bet
that
night's
starry
sky...

Punpun
idly
thought...



But...



...
Harumin
...



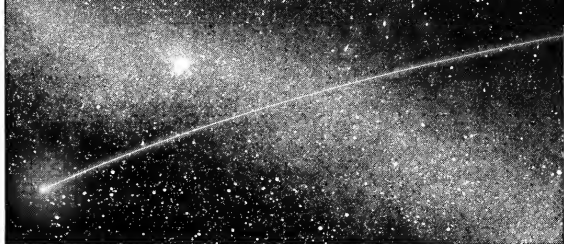
...and
Seki...



...and
Shimi...



...and
Komatsu
...



...had
all gone
away.

With an
arbitrary
hard-on.

"I'm on a
first date
with a girl
I'm not
comfortable
with.

Punpun
thought...

"Why am I
working
so hard
when she
doesn't
even
notice?"

"Do I really
think I'll get
lucky and
she'll let
me put the
tip in?"

"What
am I
doing
here?"

Lazily,
slowly
letting
things
happen.

This was
just the
result of
going with
the flow...

Surely he
wasn't
thinking
anything...

He didn't
know...

As a little
kid, could
he have ever
imagined
that this was
how he was
going to
turn out?

Punpun
was
having
trouble
breathing...

...that
Punpun
was
steadily
becoming
sleazier.

...but it
seemed
unfair...

...would
probably
still
sparkle
in the
past,
present
and
future...

The
starry
sky he
saw
that
night...

...and he
thought
again...

"What
are you
doing
here?"

"Is this
what you
want?"

"Use
your
head."

"I've had
enough of
your excuses,
explanations
and
evasions..."

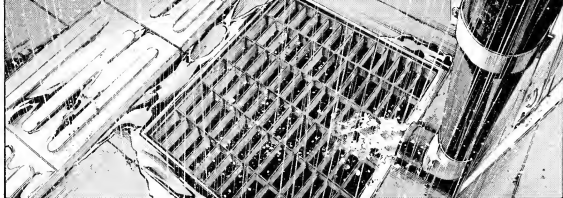
"...idiot."

"I'm
doing
the
best I
can..."

"Just
shut
up..."

"Shut
up..."

Punpun
just
barely
managed
to hang
on.

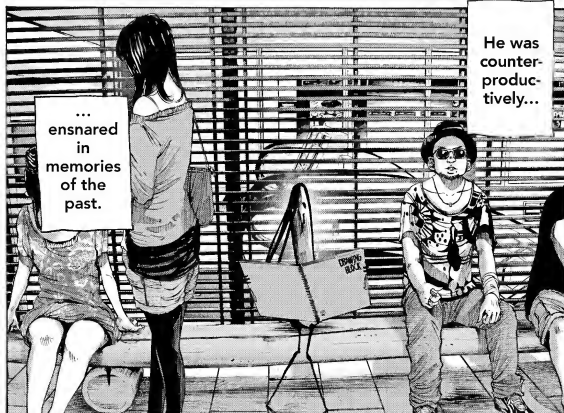






...had no
idea what
to write.

Punpun...



...
ensnared
in
memories
of the
past.

He was
counter-
productively...

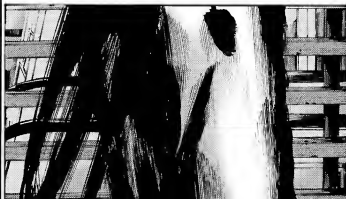
Looking
back, he
couldn't tell
how much of
it he'd really
meant...

He'd
definitely
been a little
off as a kid,
he thought.

Win a Nobel
Prize and
emigrate
to Planet
Punpun...

Become an
academic
who
studies the
universe...

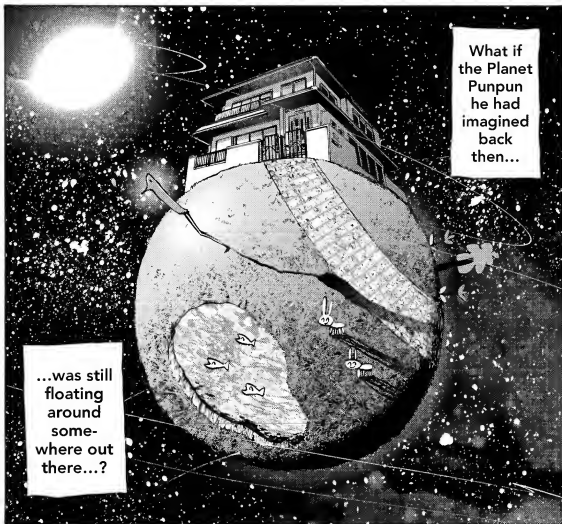
He also
thought
he had
become
very
boring.



...a near-
miraculous
probability...

...and
this
really
was a
what-if...

But,
what
if...



...was still
floating
around
some-
where out
there...?

What if
the Planet
Pupun
he had
imagined
back
then...

He's
pretty
much a
shit.

...thinking
about things
like that in
high school...

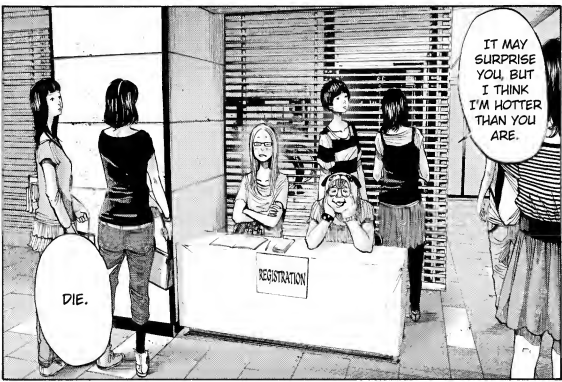
He must
really be
a little
off...

Yeah,
right.



...it might
make
things
a little
more fun,
Punpun
thought.

If he
could
become
truly
crazy...

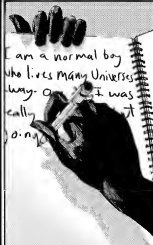


DIE.

IT MAY
SURPRISE
YOU, BUT
I THINK
I'M HOTTER
THAN YOU
ARE.

One
day I was
really
depressed
about
going to
school.

I am a
normal
boy who
lives many
universes
away.



"...how
about
this story,
titled
'The Milky
Way.'"

"Well,
as long
as I'm a
shit..."

It was love at first sight.

But several days later, a girl from a faraway star transferred to our school.



It was because Miyo, the classroom idol, was transferring.



For instance, something like this.

The grown-up me floats aimlessly through the Milky Way, looking for what I lost.

But over time, I lost sight of her.

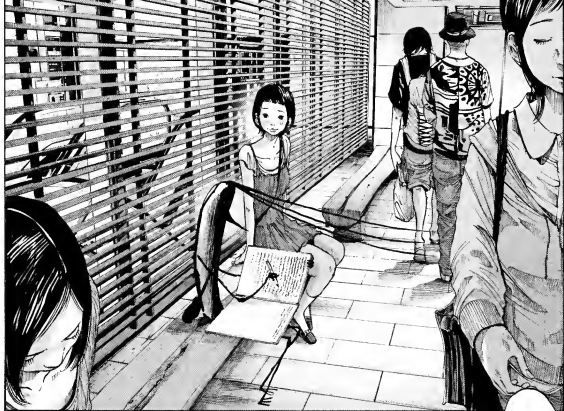
I thought that, whatever happened, I had to protect her.

I was just convinced that she was my fate.

There was no reason for it.

"...to these stupid stories." Punpun felt like crying.

"There is no end..."







...brought
Punpun
back to
reality in a
hurry.

The
relentless
rain...

She
really,
really
is.

Kanie is
a very
serious,
nice
person...



...DO YOU
WANT TO
GO SOME-
WHERE?

WHEN THE
WEATHER'S
BETTER...





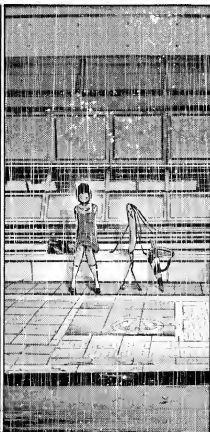
And
she's a
virgin...



Recalling
that fact
made
Punpun...

Punpun
sensed
something
was about
to happen.

A
strange
moment
passed.



...inadvertently
aroused again.



MY MOM
WORRIES
IF I'M OUT
TOO LATE.



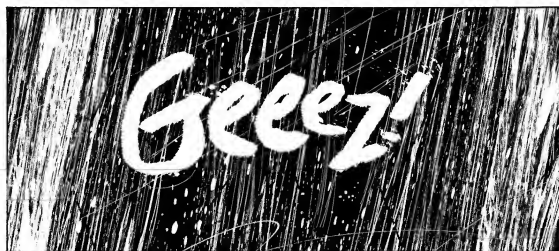
OKAY.

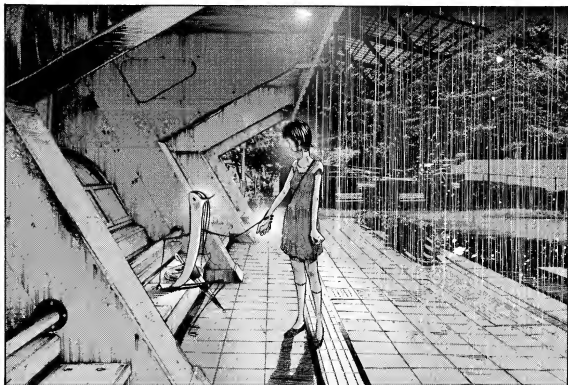
I'M
GOING
TO GO
HOME.







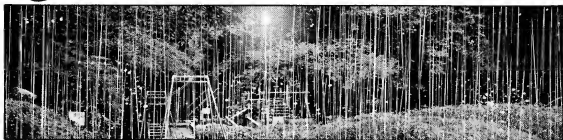
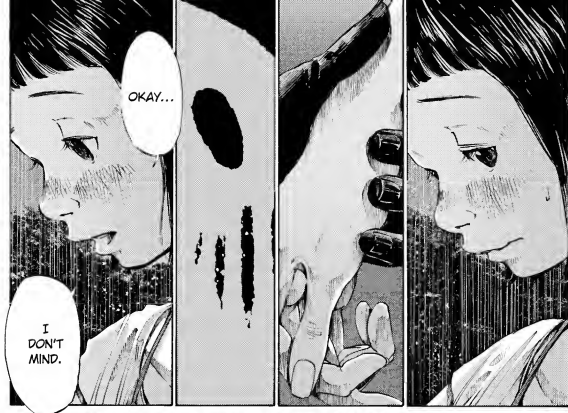




...Punpun
said as
calmly as
he could.

"I think we
should spend
a little more
time together
now..."



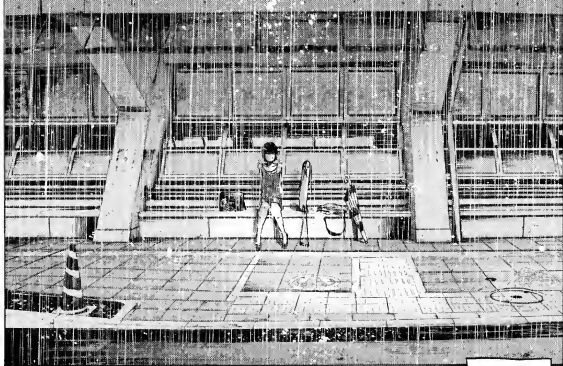


"Slit."

That
word...

...kept
running
through
Punpun's
mind.

His senses
had become very
acute during the
long silence, and
he very vividly
experienced
Kanie's breath,
body heat
and smell.



...the
more his
mind filled
with that
word. Slit.

The
more he
thought
about
needing
to say
some-
thing...



WHAT
...?

HEY.



YOUR
MOM WILL
WORRY
TOO,
ONODERA.

I
THINK
I'LL GET
GOING
...

IT'S
STARTING
TO GET
COLD.

Punpun's brain
was on high
speed, looking
for something
clever to say.

"My mom
is in the hospital
having an
operation, so
I'm fine."



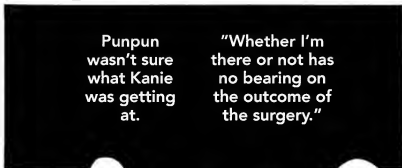
WHY DIDN'T
YOU SAY
SOMETHING?

ONODERA...



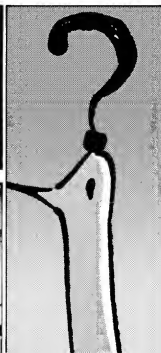
...YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE OUT
PLAYING.

IF YOUR
MOM'S
HAVING
SURGERY...



Punpun
wasn't sure
what Kanie
was getting
at.

"Whether I'm
there or not has
no bearing on
the outcome of
the surgery."



...AREN'T
YOU
WORRIED?

I
MEAN
...

THAT'S
NOT THE
POINT.



BUT...

ERRRR...

...SHE'S
YOUR
MOM.

Honestly,
Punpun
didn't
know why
she would
say
something
like that.

"I don't
feel the
need to
worry."

What a
stupid
question,
Punpun
thought.

"Whether or not
we're related
doesn't change
the fact that we
are all separate
beings."



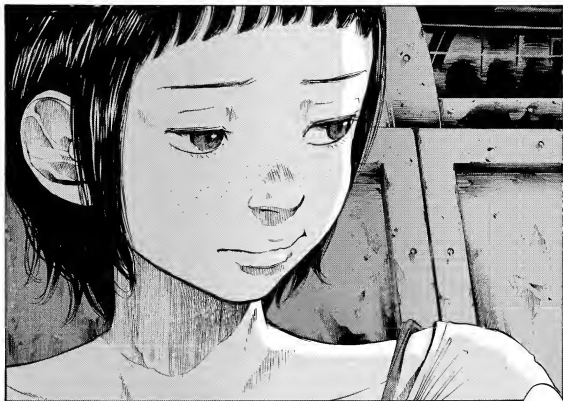
THAT'S
JUST
WRONG.

YOU SHOULD
USE YOUR
BRAIN AND
THINK AGAIN.

HEY,
ONODERA
...



"How about you?
I question your
ability to see
things outside
your own point
of view."



LET'S
AGREE TO
DISAGREE.

RIGHT
...



YOU
STOPPED
ME FROM
GOING HOME,
BUT YOU
WON'T SAY
ANYTHING.

ONODERA,
WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING
...?



SO...

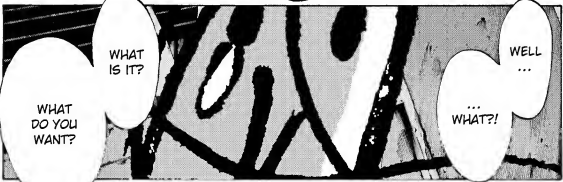
Suddenly,
Punpun's
knees were
shaking.

I'M
REALLY
SENSITIVE
TO THE
COLD.



I'M
SORRY
TO HAVE
OFFENDED
YOU.

...WERE YOU
LOOKING AT
MY SISTER'S
PAINTING,
THINKING
IT WAS
STUPID?



WHAT
IS IT?

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

WELL
...

...
WHAT?!



...JUST
COME
OUT AND
SAY IT!

IF
THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU WANT
TO SAY...

"I..."

"I..."

"I want
to go
out with
you."

YOU'RE
TOO SELF-
CENTERED.

YOU'RE
NOT
RIGHT,
ONO-
DERA.

WHY
...?

Punpun
felt like he
might piss
his pants.

Something's
not right.
Something's
not right.
Something's
not right...

HOW
CAN YOU
SAY THAT
NOW?



He didn't understand why every aspect of himself had just been so soundly negated.

Trying to get by without bothering anyone.

Punpun lived his life trying not to make waves.

...but Punpun couldn't hear a word of it.

Kanie continued to speak...

Do it.



Hiding behind social justice and spewing textbook arguments makes you far more concerned and violent than me.



don't
mind
(that)
came and
came out
Just a
second
ago, you
were all
hot and
wet.
come
out
and say
it's
S.I.A.
I've
been
thinking
again
about
it



He
got
the
gist.

Punpun
got it.

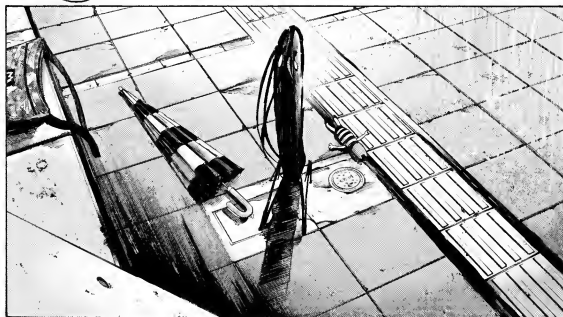
KISS me!



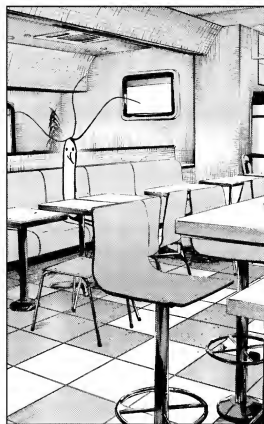














...just
what
if...

What
if...

Punpun
didn't
know
how he'd
manage.

...and people
glared at him
and talked
behind his
back and hid
his shoes...?



What if Kanie
blew things out of
proportion and told
everyone at school
what had happened
and Punpun got
labeled a savage prick
and an attempted
rapist...



...just
proved
that he
was a
total
shit.

So the
fact that
Punpun was
worrying
about
himself at
a time like
this...

...alone
in the
rain.

...letting
Kanie go
home...

Punpun
was sure
he'd regret
for the rest
of his life...

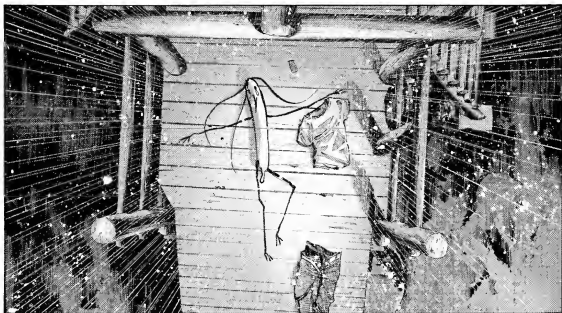
"Why
is it
always
like
this?"

Punpun
thought...

"You're a
very sad
person,
Onodera."
Kanie's
words
repeated
over
and
over...



Come
over
here.



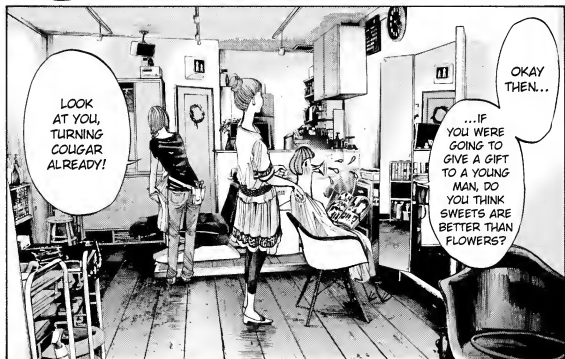
"...hurt
the people
I love?"

"Why do I
constantly..."



Whe,
I,
Splooged
big-time!
☆

SPEEE!
Whe,
I,
Splooged
big-time!
☆





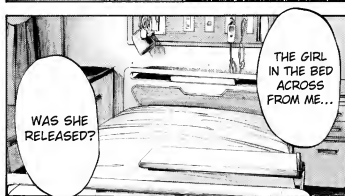
DON'T BE
SUCH A
STICK-
IN-THE-
MUD.

MS.
ONODERA...

CAN'T YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT I
WANTED TO
ENJOY THE
FREEDOM OF
NOT BEING
ATTACHED TO
AN I.V.?

...GET PER-
MISSION
BEFORE
YOU GO
OUT NEXT
TIME,
OKAY?

ANYWAY,
I'M BEING
DISCHARGED
TONIGHT.



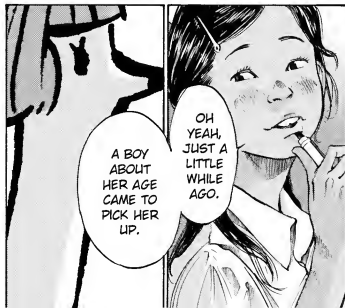
WAS SHE
RELEASED?

THE GIRL
IN THE BED
ACROSS
FROM ME...



OH...

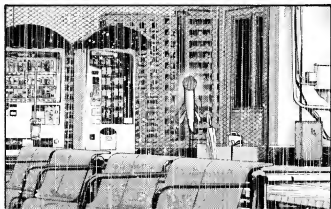
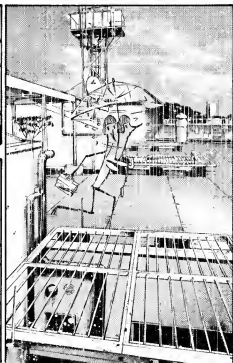
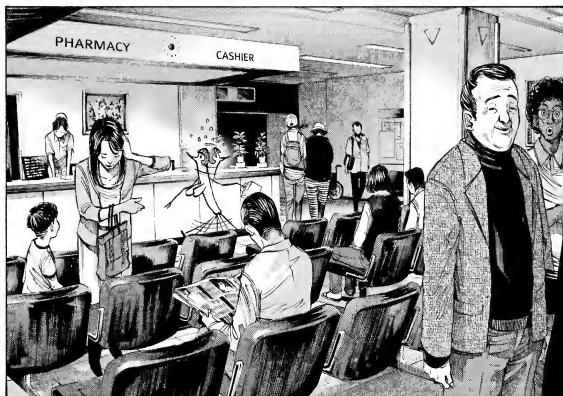
WHAT
NOW?

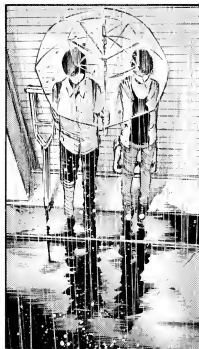
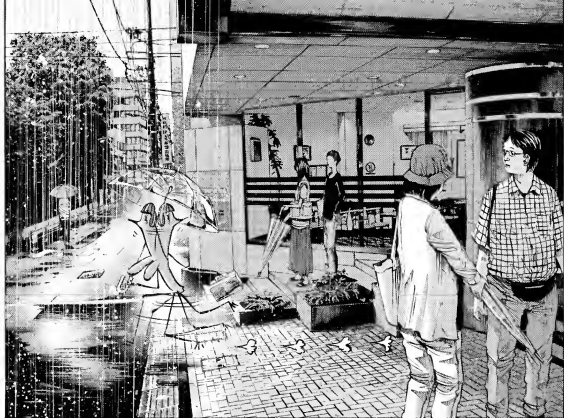


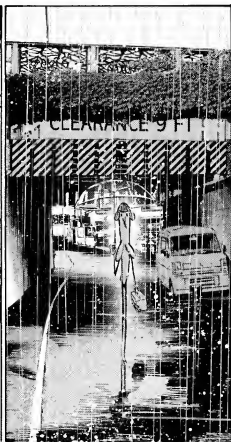
A BOY
ABOUT
HER AGE
CAME TO
PICK HER
UP.

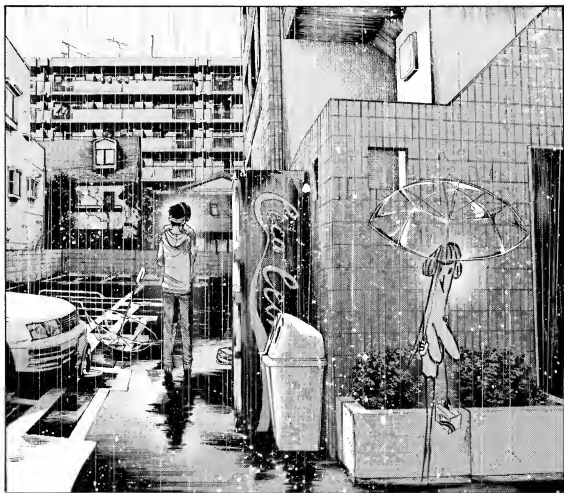
OH
YEAH,
JUST A
LITTLE
WHILE
AGO.

SHLINTARO?











SHUNTARO.

I'm sorry
day, I've been
and I realize I'm still
my ways.

I envy
you. If we ever
look forward to
stories! I should be
more mature by
Shuntarou Ha



Dear Ms. Onodera,

I'm sorry for writing out of the blue.
I really wanted to see you again to thank
you, but you weren't in your room. What
an odd coincidence that you were in the
bed across from my girlfriend. I'm sorry
I was so rude the other day. I've been
thinking about it and I realize I'm still
many ways.

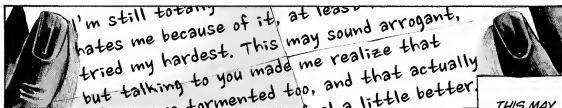
I'VE
BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
IT AND I
REALIZE
I'M STILL
A CHILD IN
SO MANY
WAYS.

I'M
SORRY I
WAS SO
RUDE THE
OTHER
DAY.

I HAVEN'T
REACHED
ANY
CONCLU-
SIONS AND
I'M STILL
TOTALLY
LOST...

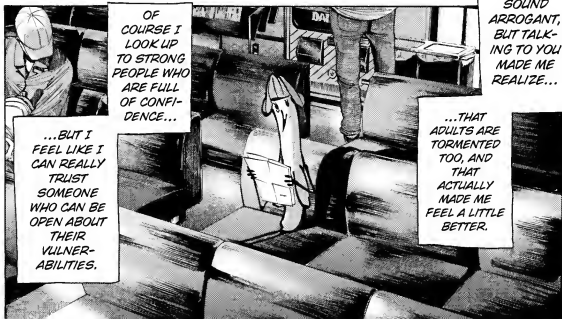
TODAY,
I PLAN TO
TELL HER
HOW I FEEL
AS
HONESTLY
AS I CAN.

...BUT
IF SHE
HATES ME
BECAUSE
OF IT, AT
LEAST I
TRIED MY
HARDEST.



I'm still totally
hates me because of it, at least
tried my hardest. This may sound arrogant,
but talking to you made me realize that
I'm not as tormented too, and that actually
feels a little better.

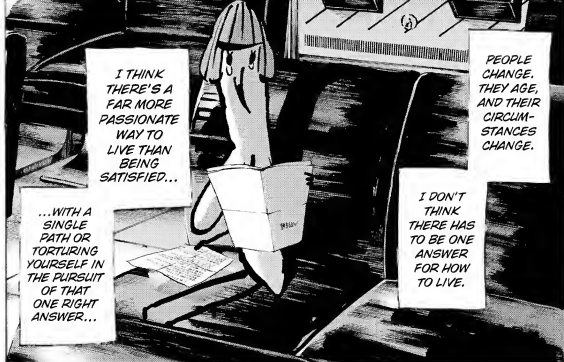
THIS MAY
SOUND
ARROGANT,
BUT TALK-
ING TO YOU
MADE ME
REALIZE...

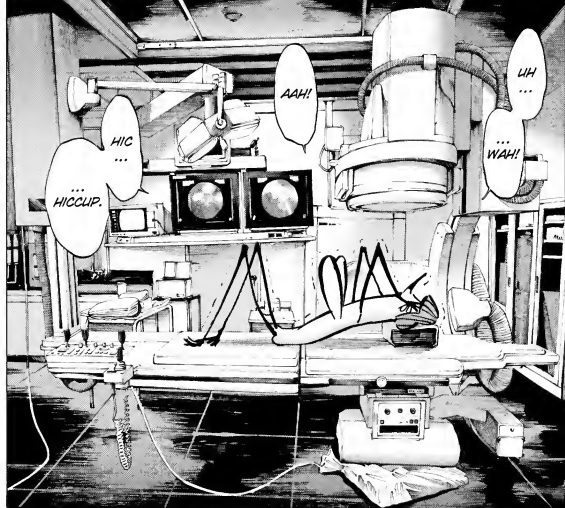


OF
COURSE I
LOOK UP
TO STRONG
PEOPLE WHO
ARE FULL
OF CONFI-
DENCE...

...BUT I
FEEL LIKE I
CAN REALLY
TRUST
SOMEONE
WHO CAN BE
OPEN ABOUT
THEIR
VULNER-
ABILITIES.

...THAT
ADULTS ARE
TORMENTED
TOO, AND
THAT
ACTUALLY
MADE ME
FEEL A LITTLE
BETTER.

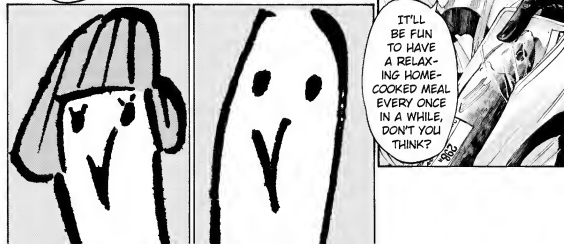
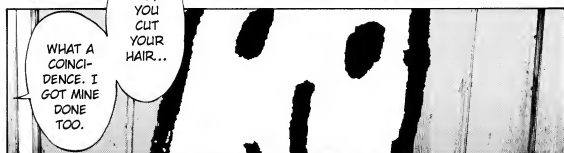




I SHOULD
BE A LITTLE
MORE
MATURE
BY THEN.
(LAUGH)



IF WE
EVER MEET
AGAIN,
I LOOK
FORWARD
TO HEARING
YOUR
STORIES.



IT'LL BE FUN TO HAVE A RELAXING HOME-COOKED MEAL EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, DON'T YOU THINK?



HOW ABOUT
A
"WEL-
COME
HOME"
?!

SAY
SOME-
THING,
YOU
LITTLE
SHIT!



MY
GIRLFRIEND
SAYS "MS.
ONODERA IS
NICE" TOO.

P.S. PLEASE
TRY TO GET
ALONG WITH
YOUR SON.



I...

...REALLY
AM AN
IDIOT.

OH...

...
AARGH!





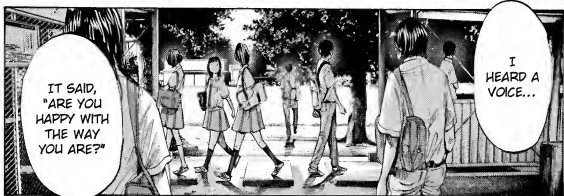


I WAS
ENVELOPED
IN A WHITE
LIGHT...

THAT'S
RIGHT, AND
I WOULDN'T
OBJECT TO
CALLING IT
GOD.

I DON'T
CARE IF
YOU DON'T
BELIEVE...

...WHAT
HAPPENED
LAST
NIGHT.



IT SAID,
"ARE YOU
HAPPY WITH
THE WAY
YOU ARE?"

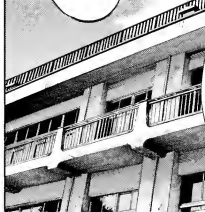
I
HEARD A
VOICE...



I...



I FEEL
REBORN.



IT'S
LIKE THE
DAWNING
OF THE
WORLD.

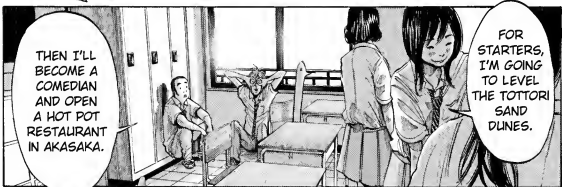


LIKE
I'M MUCH
MORE
CAPABLE
NOW.



WHA-
CHA!

I'M
GOING
TO DO
SOME-
THING
HUGE!



THEN I'LL
BECOME A
COMEDIAN
AND OPEN
A HOT POT
RESTAURANT
IN AKASAKA.

FOR
STARTERS,
I'M GOING
TO LEVEL
THE TOTTORI
SAND
DUNES.



I CAN'T
RELATE
AT ALL,
BUT
HANG IN
THERE.

YEAH
...

...HOW
LOW DID
YOU RANK
ON THE
FINALS?

SO,
MIMURA
...



ABOUT 15
FROM THE
BOTTOM, I
THINK.



...HOW ABOUT WE GET SOME HOTTIES AT THE BEACH THIS SUMMER?

HEY, ONOTTI...

IF WE DON'T GET ON IT, OUR YOUTH WILL BE GONE.



ALL OF A SUDDEN ...

...IT'S SUMMER.

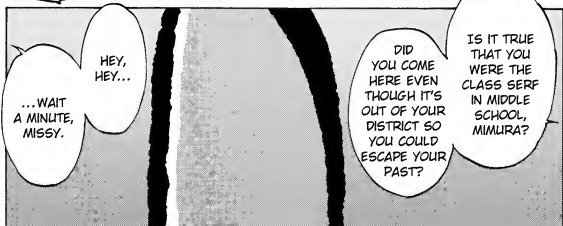


WHAT ?!

I DID NOT.

HEY, MIMURA ...

...YOU JUST LOOKED UP MY SKIRT, DIDN'T YOU?



HEY, HEY...

...WAIT A MINUTE, MISSY.

DID YOU COME HERE EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUT OF YOUR DISTRICT SO YOU COULD ESCAPE YOUR PAST?

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WERE THE CLASS SERF IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MIMURA?



I
SAW YOU
WALKING
WITH AN OLD
GUY IN AN
EXPENSIVE
SUIT THE
OTHER
DAY...

HEY
...

YOUR
DESPERATE
ATTEMPTS
TO MAKE A
SPLASH IN
HIGH SCHOOL
ARE TOTALLY
PATHETIC...

...ESPE-
CIALLY
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
FAILING
SO COM-
PLETELY.

YOU...
YOU
SLUTTY
SLUT
SLUT!



DISGUST-
ING.

YOU'RE
DISGUST-
ING.

HIGH,
YOU
JUST
MADE
THAT
UP.



MAN
SIGN!

YOU...

...YOU
CAN'T EVEN
BEGIN TO
UNDERSTAND
HOW I FEEL!

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
LIVING WITH
PASSION?

GYA
HA!

Acting
tough,
bragging
...

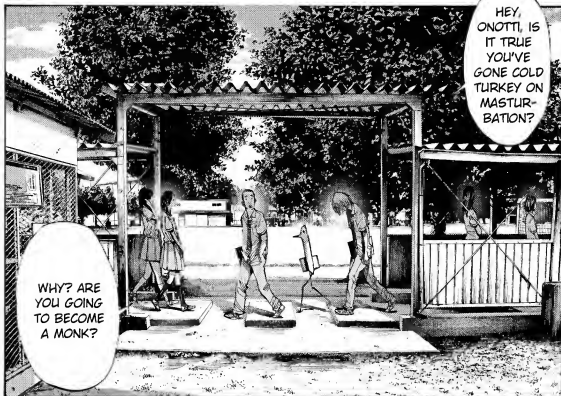
...saying
things you
shouldn't,
not being
able to say
things you
should...

It's all
just a
hassle,
Punpun
thought.

YEAR 1 CLASS B #5 PUNPUN ONODERA			
	POINTS	DEVIATION	RANKING
OVERALL	426	45	242/252
JAPANESE	68	52	170/252
ANCIENT JAPANESE LIT.	49	46	228/252
MATHEMATICS	58	47	203/252
ENGLISH	31	43	248/252
WORLD HISTORY	19	43	247/252
	55	48	196/252
	72	56	112/252
	44	16	230/252
	30	45	236/252

...what
youth
was all
about.

Punpun
didn't
really
under-
stand...

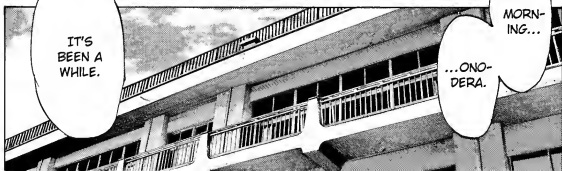


Punpun
was
starting
to lose
the will
to live.

...seemed
almost
impossible.

..."I was
so young
then, but
those
were
good
times"...

When
he was
grown-up,
being able
to say...





I HEAR
THE RAINY
SEASON'S
OVER
NOW.

IT'S
SO
NICE
OUT...

IT JUST
STOPPED
STORM-
ING YES-
TERDAY.

SHORT HAIR
SUITS YOU,
ONODERA.

WHAT?
WELL, OF
COURSE IF
YOU LEAVE
IT ALONE,
HAIR
GROWS
...



LET'S
GO.

KANIE...



BYE-
BYE.

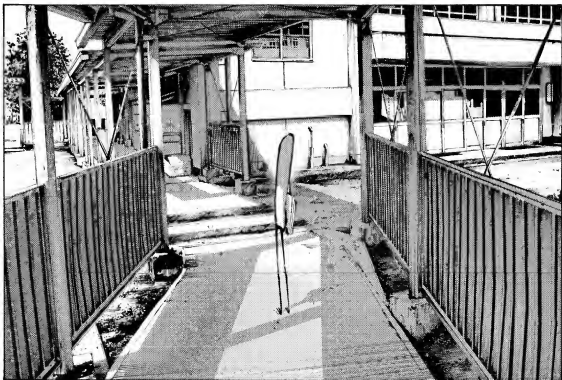
SORRY
...

...I
NEED
TO GO.

...any
shred of
confidence.

...Punpun
had
already
lost...

Actually...





THE GIANTS
COME BACK
AT THE LAST
MINUTE AND
WIN IT WITH
A TWO-RUN
HOME RUN!

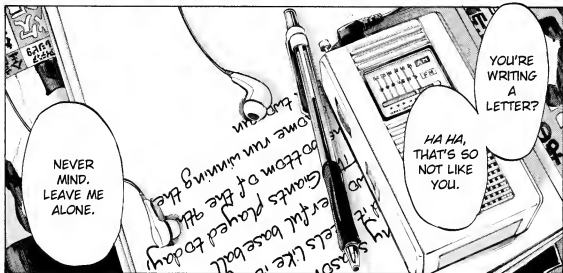
DON'T
SCARE ME.
I JUST
PEED A
LITTLE.

WHOA!

MS.
ONODERA!



I'VE
BEEN
CALLING
YOUR
NAME.



NEVER
MIND.
LEAVE ME
ALONE.

YOU'RE
WRITING
A
LETTER?

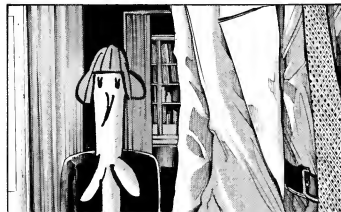
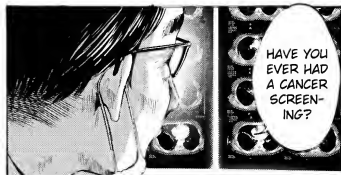
HA HA,
THAT'S SO
NOT LIKE
YOU.

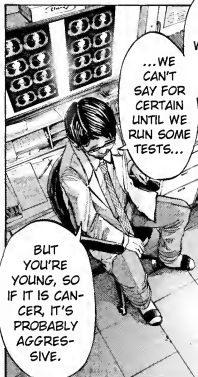


AFTER WE
REMOVE
YOUR
STITCHES
TODAY, YOU
CAN GO
HOME.

...YOU
SEEM
TO BE
RECOVER-
ING WELL
FROM
SURGERY.

UHH,
MS.
ONODERA
...





...WE
CAN'T
SAY FOR
CERTAIN
UNTIL WE
RUN SOME
TESTS...

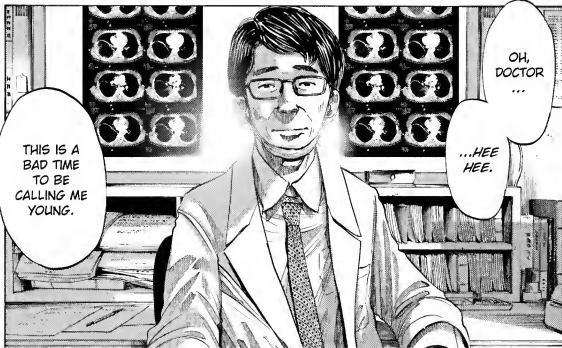
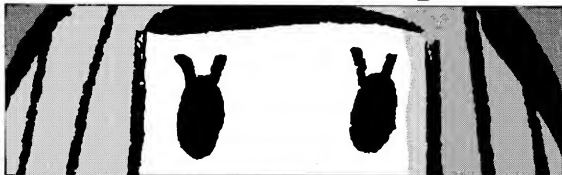
WELL
...

BUT
YOU'RE
YOUNG, SO
IF IT IS CAN-
CER, IT'S
PROBABLY AGGRES-
SIVE.



FROM THE
LOOKS OF
THIS CT
SCAN...

I HAVE
CANCER?



THIS IS A
BAD TIME
TO BE
CALLING ME
YOUNG.

OH,
DOCTOR
...

...HEE
HEE.



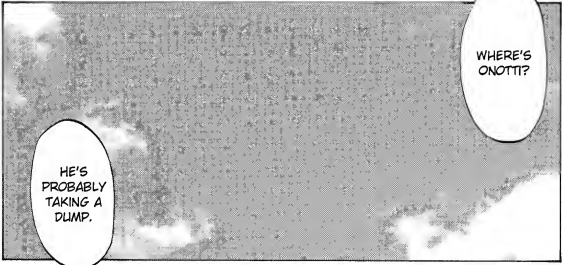
...MS.
ONODERA.

WE
CAN
FIGHT
IT...

It
was very
normal.

...didn't
involve being
the class serf
or having his
shoes hidden...

High
school for
Punpun...

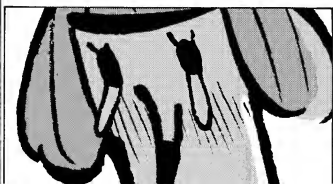
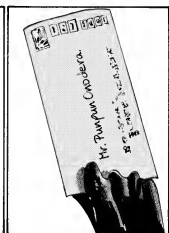
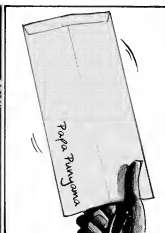


HE'S
PROBABLY
TAKING A
DUMP.

WHERE'S
ONOTTI?

Possibly
she was
an angel
incarnate.

Kanie seemed
to have buried
deep in her
heart the savage
act Punpun had
perpetrated.

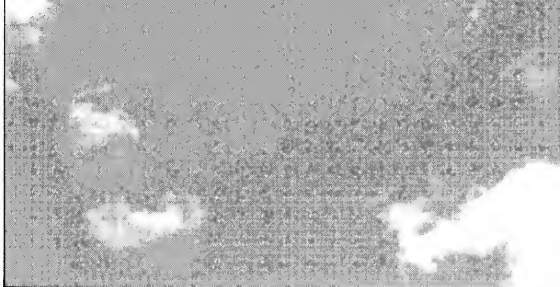




PREP SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRE-K

Iwama
Silver
Fox
Employment
Agency

CO VIDEO DVD RENTALS
レンタルビデオ



It
was a
thought.

...than
Punpun
had given
life credit
for.

...living the
best they
could day
to day...

...there
were more
kind and
honest
people...

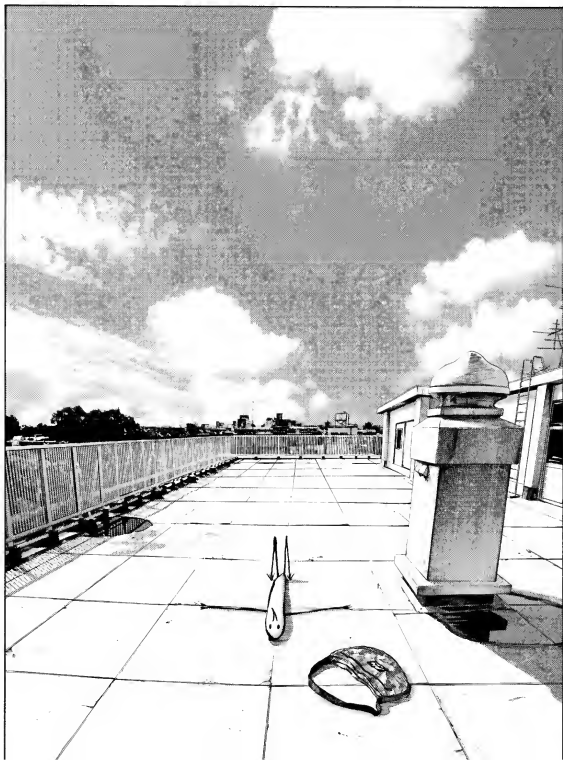
Maybe...



...like he
wanted to
apologize to
the whole
world.

...Punpun
felt...

Looking
at the
stupidly
blue sky...





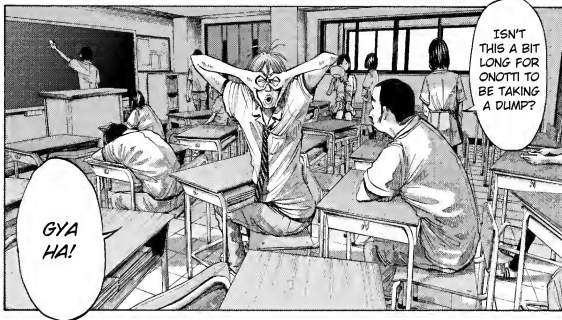
Punpun
understood
clearly...

...that
there was
no God.

...lying
around
without
purpose.

...a
stagnant,
rotten
soul...

There
was
only...



GYA
HA!

ISN'T
THIS A BIT
LONG FOR
ONOTTI TO
BE TAKING
A DUMP?

...Punpun
could do
now.

...then
there was
only one
thing...

...came
from
people's
hearts...

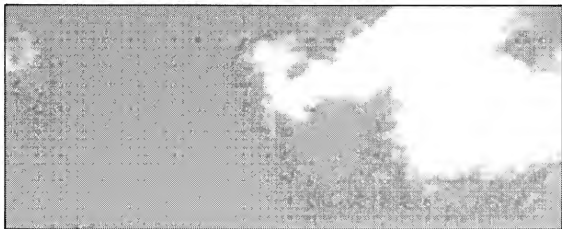
...good,
bad or
otherwise...

If
everything
in the
world...





"I'll never
fall in love
again."



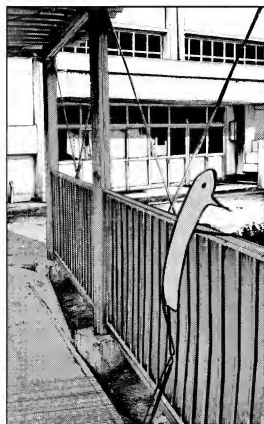
Goodnight,
Punpun.

That's
enough
for
today.

...so he
softly
closed
his eyes.

The
warm winds
wrapping
around
him made
Punpun want
to cry...



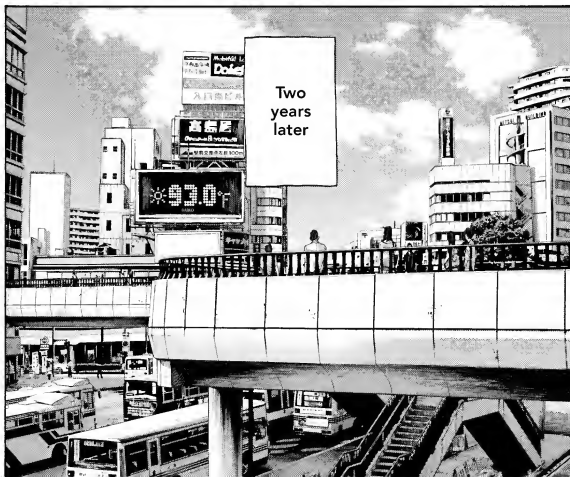


★

Chapter 67

☆

★





ESPECIALLY
THE ONES WITH
THE ARROGANT
ATTITUDE, LIKE
THEY'RE NOT
GOING TO RELY
ON US YOUNG
PEOPLE TO TAKE
CARE OF THEM
SOON.

HONESTLY
...

IF ALL
THEY DO WITH
THEIR LIVES IS
WATCH TV AND
PLAY PACHINKO,
IT'S BETTER
ECOLOGICALLY
IF THEY
JUST DIE.

...I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY THESE OLD
PEOPLE WHO'VE
FINISHED RAIS-
ING KIDS AND
AREN'T WORKING
ANYMORE ARE
STILL ALIVE.

SHUT UP,
STUPID.
SOMEONE
WILL HEAR.



YOU'LL
BE
FINE...

YOU'RE
A VERY
STRONG
WOMAN.



SO
THE TEST
RESULTS
ARE IN...

YOU'RE
THE BIG
SISTER...

...SO YOU
NEED TO
TAKE CARE
OF EVERY-
THING.



SEEDLESS PERSIMMON
18.90L/箱
250



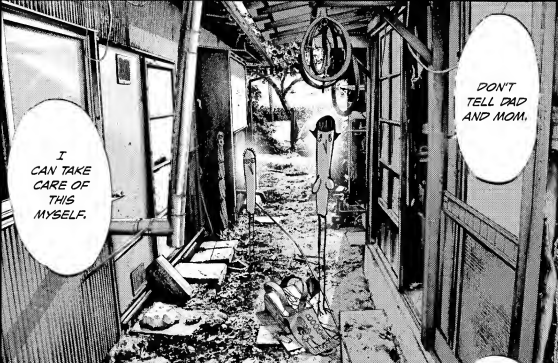
BIG
BOOBS,
BIG
BOOBS...

BOOBIES,
BOOBIES.

YOU
GOT IT,
YUICHI?

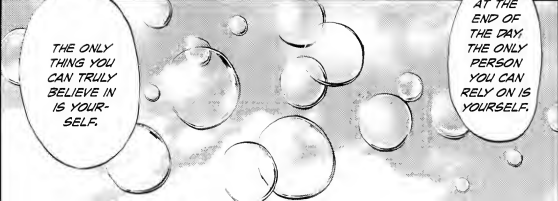


YOU DON'T
NEED ME.
YOU'LL BE
FINE BY
YOURSELF.



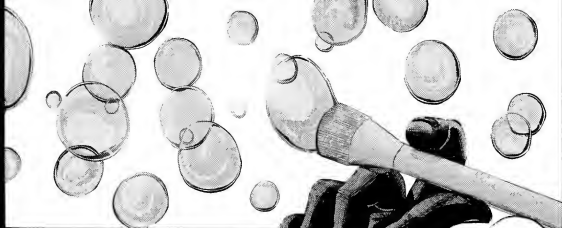
I
CAN TAKE
CARE OF
THIS
MYSELF.

DON'T
TELL DAD
AND MOM.



THE ONLY
THING YOU
CAN TRULY
BELIEVE IN
IS YOUR-
SELF.

AT THE
END OF
THE DAY,
THE ONLY
PERSON
YOU CAN
RELY ON IS
YOURSELF.



I
FEEL LIKE
I'LL GET
EVERYTHING
I'VE EVER
WANTED.

YOU
KNOW, I
DON'T WANT
TO BE THE
ONE TO SAY
IT...

...BUT
I DON'T
KNOW ANY-
ONE ELSE
WHO HAS
THE SELF-
CONFIDENCE
I DO.



YOU
CAN'T BE
PIGEON-
HOLED,
RIGHT,
BABY?

RIGHT?

YOU'RE
RIGHT. I
THINK YOU
MIGHT PULL
OFF SOME-
THING BIG
ONE DAY.



YEAH,
YEAH.

BUT I
FEEL LIKE A
VAGUELY SELF-
CONFIDENT
PERSON WHO
MIGHT JUST
END UP WITH
NOTHING.

YOU
HAVE
CANCER.



YOU
CAN'T
BE A
MOM!

SERIOUS-
LY, YOU'RE
GOING TO
MARRY
PUNYA-
MA?!



NNN,
NNN
...

...
WAAAH!

MRS.
PUNYAMA,
WE CAN
SEE YOUR
BABY'S
HEAD.

AAAHH!

...
PANT
PANT
...

OKAY,
HEE
HEE
HOO!





YOU ARE
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING TO
ME IN THE
WORLD...

I
UNDER-
STAND..

...THAT
YOU'RE
A VERY
LONELY
PERSON.

...AND
YOU NEED
ME.



LIAR.

YOU SAY
THAT, BUT
YOU'RE OFF
TO WORK
AGAIN
TOMORROW.

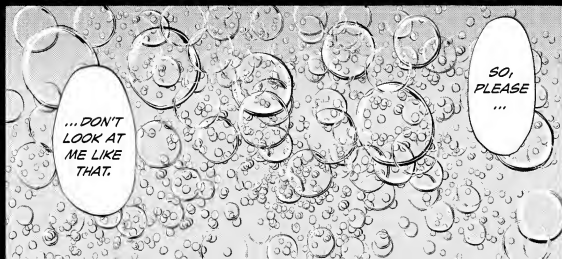
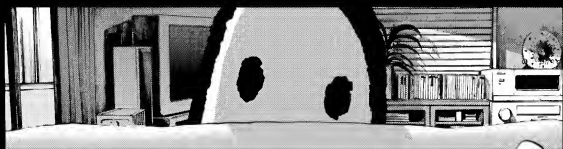


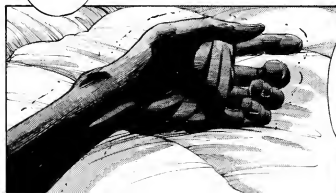
GO,
GO!

I'M
A JUICY
THIRTY-
SOMETHING
MARRIED
WOMAN.

YOU...
YOU
RUINED
MY LIFE.

I'LL BE
WAITING TO
HEAR FROM
YOU ADULT
GENTLEMEN
OVERFLOWING
WITH CARNAL
DESIRE.





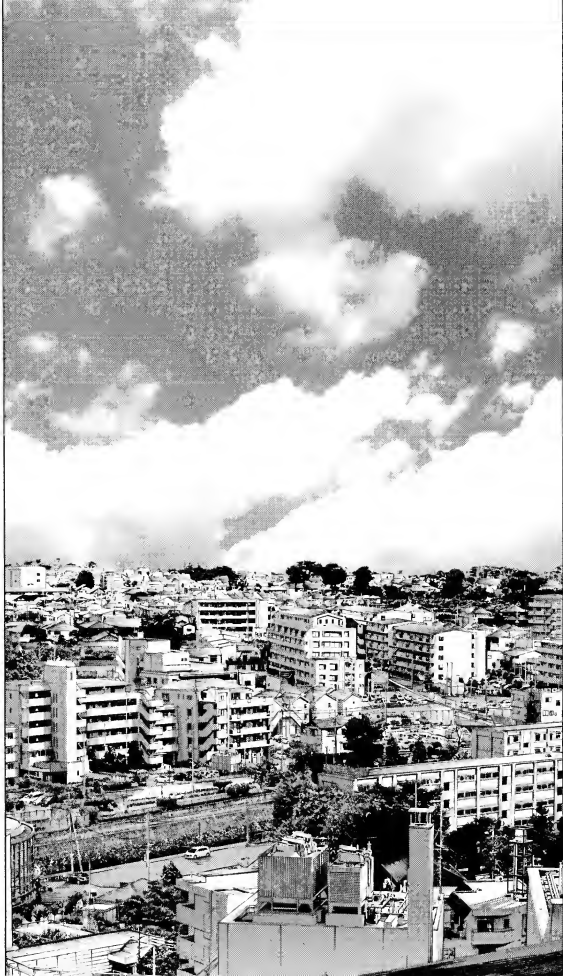


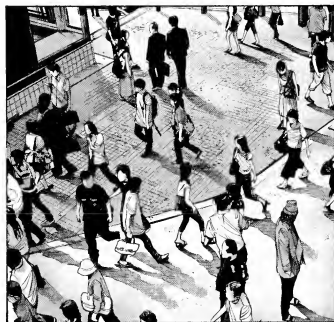




...I
LOVE
YOU
VERY
MUCH.

BUT
REALLY
...

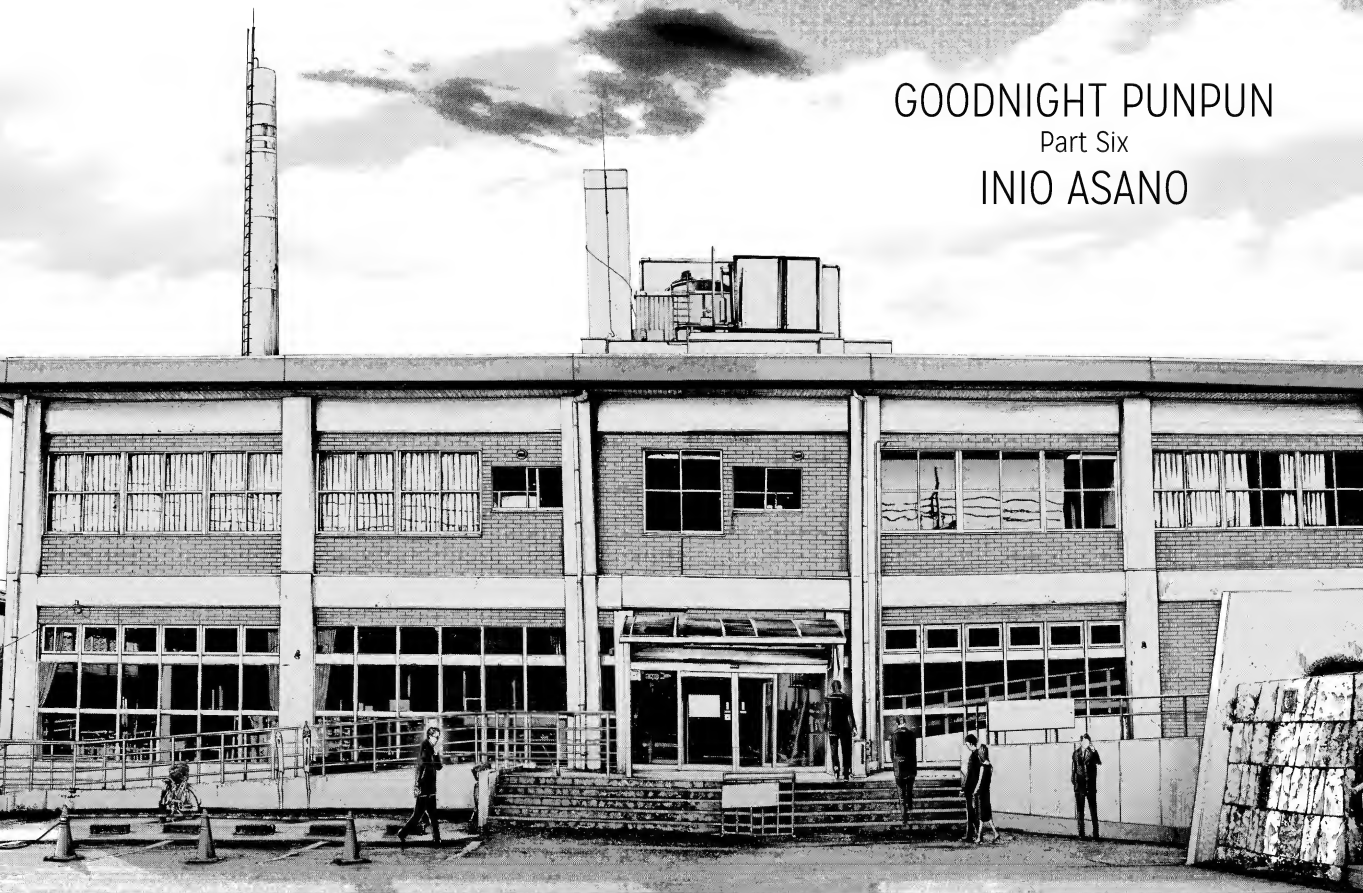


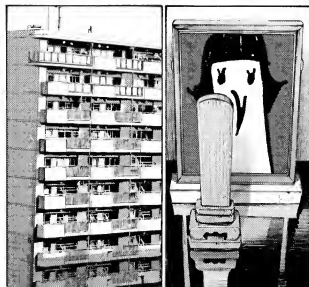
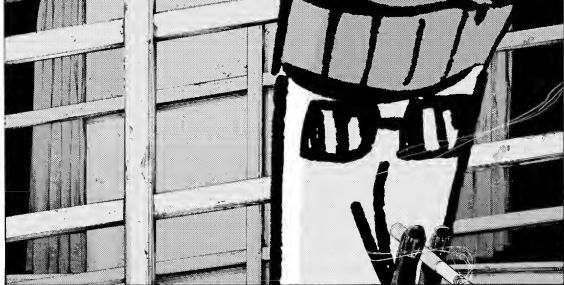


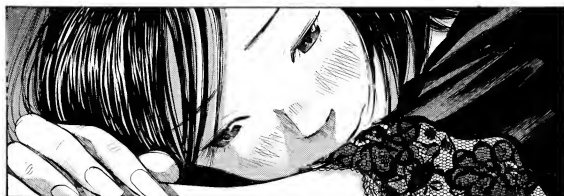
GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Six

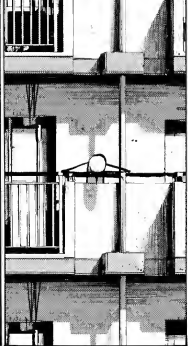
INIO ASANO







...didn't love
his mother,
even at the
very end.



Punpun...







GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Six

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION: Kumatsuto





After many years of complicated body-mod surgeries, Papa comes standard with metallic skin and eight 12-inch missiles. Can Punpun defeat this super-enhanced human battleship?

Professor Lettuce's nanobots are his only hope, so Punpun devises a daring secret plan to wipe the floor with the tremendous odds he's up against. What's the plot, Punpun?

Find out next time on *Green Knight Punpun!*

THE RISE OF PAPA PUNPUN

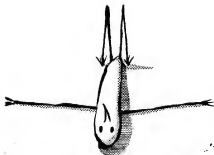




INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.







GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Volume 3

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

OYASUMI PUNPUN Vol. 5, 6

by Inio ASANO

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